Montana Code Annotated
2023

Health & Safety • Family Services
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VOLUME 8

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Part 1
General Provisions

50-1-101. Definitions. Unless the context indicates otherwise, in chapter 2 and this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Communicable disease" means an illness because of a specific infectious agent or its toxic products that arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected person, animal, or inanimate reservoir to a susceptible host. The transmission may occur either directly or indirectly through an intermediate plant or animal host, a transmitting entity, or the inanimate environment.

(2) "Condition of public health importance" means a disease, injury, or other condition that is identifiable on an individual or community level and that can reasonably be expected to lead to adverse health effects in the community.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Inanimate reservoir" means soil, a substance, or a combination of soil and a substance:

(a) in which an infectious agent normally lives and multiplies;

(b) on which an infectious agent depends primarily for survival; and

(c) where an infectious agent reproduces in a manner that allows the infectious agent to be transmitted to a susceptible host.

(5) "Institutional controls" means legal or regulatory mechanisms designed to protect public health and safety that:

(a) limit access to or limit or condition the use of environmentally contaminated property or media;

(b) provide for the protection or preservation of environmental cleanup measures; or

(c) inform the public that property or media is or may be environmentally contaminated.

(6) "Isolation" means the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals who are infected with a communicable disease from nonisolated individuals to prevent or limit the transmission of the communicable disease to nonisolated individuals.

(7) "Local board of health" or "local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(8) "Local governing body" or "governing body" means an entity whose voting members are all elected officials and that operates as or oversees a local board of health. A local governing body may include:

(a) the local board of health if all voting members of the local board of health are elected officials;

(b) the board of county commissioners that oversees a county local board of health;

(c) the elected governing body of a city that oversees a city local board of health; or

(d) the entity identified as the governing body as established in the bylaws, interlocal agreement, or memorandum of understanding creating a city-county local board of health or a local district board of health.

(9) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by a local board of health. With regard to the exercise of the duties and authorities of a local health officer, the term may include an authorized representative of the local health officer.

(10) "Local public health agency" means an organization operated by a local government in the state, including local boards of health or local health officers, that principally acts to protect or preserve the public health.

(11) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.

(12) "Public health services and functions" means those services and functions necessary to promote the conditions in which the population can be healthy and safe, including:

(a) population-based or individual efforts primarily aimed at the prevention of injury, disease, or premature mortality; or

(b) the promotion of health in the community, such as assessing the health needs and status of the community through public health surveillance and epidemiological research, developing public health policy, and responding to public health needs and emergencies.

(13) "Public health system" means state and local public health agencies and their public and private sector partners.

(14) "Quarantine" means the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals who have been exposed to a communicable disease and who do not show signs or symptoms of a communicable disease from nonquarantined individuals to prevent or limit the transmission of the communicable disease to nonquarantined individuals.

(15) "Screening" means diagnostic or investigative analysis or medical procedures that determine the presence or absence of or exposure to a condition of public health importance or the condition's precursor in an individual.

(16) "Testing" has the same meaning as screening.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 238, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

Cross-References

Disease prevention and control, Title 50, ch. 17.

Sexually transmitted diseases, Title 50, ch. 18.

50-1-102. Legal adviser to department. The attorney general is legal adviser to the department. If the county attorney fails to act and with the approval of the attorney general, the department may retain special counsel and compensate the special counsel from appropriations to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4111(part); amd. Sec. 239, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
Prosecutorial duties of County Attorney, 7-4-2712.
Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-1-103. Enforcement of public health laws. (1) Either the county attorney of a county where a cause of action arises or the department may bring an action necessary to abate, restrain, or prosecute the violation of public health laws.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the public health laws administered by the department, the department may, through the attorney general or appropriate county attorney, sue in district court to enjoin any violation of the public health laws, rules, or orders adopted or issued under the public health laws administered by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4111(part); amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Prosecutorial duties of County Attorney, 7-4-2712.
Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-1-104. General penalty. Anyone who violates a rule adopted by the department for which a penalty is not specified is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: **En. Sec. 221, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5701; amd. Sec. 241, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

50-1-105. Policy — purpose. (1) It is the policy of the state of Montana that the health of the public be protected and promoted to the extent practicable through the public health system while respecting individual rights to dignity, privacy, and nondiscrimination.

(2) The purpose of Montana's public health system is to provide leadership and to protect and promote the public's health by:

(a) promoting conditions in which people can be healthy;

(b) providing or promoting the provision of public health services and functions, including:

(i) monitoring health status to identify and recommend solutions to community health problems;

(ii) investigating and diagnosing health problems and health hazards in the community;

(iii) informing and educating individuals about health issues;

(iv) coordinating public and private sector collaboration and action to identify and solve health problems;

(v) developing policies, plans, and programs that support individual and community health efforts;

(vi) implementing and enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety;

(vii) linking individuals to needed personal health services and assisting with needed health care when otherwise unavailable;

(viii) to the extent practicable, providing a competent public health workforce;

(ix) evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services; and

(x) to the extent that resources are available, conducting research for new insights on and innovative solutions to health problems;

(c) encouraging collaboration among public and private sector partners in the public health system;

(d) seeking adequate funding and other resources to provide public health services and functions or accomplish public health system goals through public or private sources;

(e) striving to ensure that public health services and functions are provided and public health powers are used based upon the best available scientific evidence; and

(f) implementing the role of public health services and functions, health promotion, and preventive health services within the state health care system.

(3) Title 50, chapter 2, and this chapter may not be construed to require an individual or agency within the public health system to provide specific health services or to mandate state public health agencies and local public health agencies to implement unfunded programs.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2007.**

50-1-106. Collaboration and relationships within public health system. (1) In general, the department and local public health agencies shall seek to establish working relationships with federal, tribal, and other state or local public health agencies and with other public sector partners engaged in the provision of public health services and functions within the public health system.

(2) The department may enter an agreement with any federal agency to coordinate the provision of public health services and functions.

(3) The department may enter an agreement with any other state or any agencies in any other state to coordinate the provision of public health services and functions among the states that are parties to the agreement.

(4) Any local public health agency may enter agreements with other local public health agencies in the state to coordinate the provision of public health services and functions consistent with Title 50, chapter 2, and this chapter. The local public health agency shall submit any agreement entered into pursuant to this section to the department.

(5) A local public health agency whose jurisdiction extends to a state border may form an agreement with an adjoining state or a municipality in the other state to coordinate the provision of public health services and functions. The local public health agency shall submit any agreement entered into pursuant to this section to the department for prior approval.

(6) The department or local public health agencies may form agreements with tribes and tribal public health agencies in the state to coordinate the provision of public health services and functions or to promote cooperation in addressing specific public health needs of persons living on Indian reservations or Indians who reside outside the boundaries of Indian reservations.

(7) (a) Public health districts, consisting of two or more local public health agencies, may be created by interlocal agreement, as provided in Title 7, chapter 11, part 1, or as a district board of health under 50-2-107 for the purpose of improving the provision of public health services and functions for the affected population. A public health district created under this subsection (7) may include tribal health agencies.

(b) A public health district created under this subsection (7) must consist of the entire area of the combined local public health agencies and tribal health agencies and must be governed in accordance with state law.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 2007.**

50-1-107 through 50-1-110 reserved.

50-1-111. Asbestos disease account. There is an asbestos disease account in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department for grants to the Lincoln County health board to be used for the following purposes:

(1) providing case management services for asbestos patients;

(2) maintaining and overseeing a working network of Lincoln County health care and social service providers;

(3) providing direct services to individuals who have a positive result as determined by a qualified physician for asbestos-related diseases;

(4) evaluating the programs for effectiveness and quality; and

(5) pursuing both short-term and permanent funding for health care and social service needs of asbestos patients.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 601, L. 2005.**

50-1-112 through 50-1-114 reserved.

50-1-115. *(Temporary)* **Special revenue account — statutory appropriation.** (1) There is an account in the federal special revenue fund to the credit of the department. Money received by the state pursuant to Title X of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300a, et seq., must be deposited into the account.

(2) The department shall use the money from the account to:

(a) make grants in accordance with 50-1-117 and federal law and regulations; and

(b) pay for grant-related administrative costs.

(3) Money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for the purposes of subsection (2). *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 5, Ch. 548, L. 2021.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 548, L. 2021.**

50-1-116. Definitions. As used in 50-1-116 through 50-1-118, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Family planning services" means a range of appropriate methods to prevent, delay, space, or otherwise time pregnancy, including natural family planning methods and infertility services. Family planning services do not include abortion, abortion referrals, or counseling in favor of abortion.

(2) "Federally qualified abortion" means an abortion qualified for federal matching funds under the medicaid program, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., and as amended after this.

(3) "Federally qualified health center" means a health care provider that is eligible to receive federal funds under 42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B).

(4) "Hospital" means a hospital as defined in 50-5-101.

(5) "Public funds" means state funds, including without limitation state general revenue funds, state special revenue funds, limited purpose grants or loans, and federal funds, federal state account 03026, provided under Title X of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300, et seq., Title IV, 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq., Title V, 42 U.S.C. 701, et seq., and Title XX, 42 U.S.C. 1397, et seq., of the Social Security Act.

(6) "Rural health clinic" means a health care provider that is eligible to receive federal funds under 42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2).

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 2021.**

50-1-117. Prioritizations of public funds to health care entities — restrictions. Subject to any applicable requirements of federal statutes, rules, regulations, or guidelines:

(1) any expenditures or grants of public funds for family planning services by the state by and through the department of public health and human services must be made in the following order of priority:

(a) to public entities;

(b) to federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics;

(c) to nonpublic health providers that have as their primary purpose the provision of the primary health care services enumerated in 42 U.S.C. 254b(a)(1); and

(d) to nonpublic health providers that do not have as their primary purpose the provision of the primary health care services enumerated in 42 U.S.C. 254b(a)(1); and

(2) the department of public health and human services may not enter into a contract with, or make a grant to, an entity that performs nonfederally qualified abortions or maintains or operates a facility where nonfederally qualified abortions are performed, provided, however, that nothing in 50-1-116 through 50-1-118 shall be construed to apply to the receipt or administration of funds pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 548, L. 2021.**

50-1-118. Effect on appropriations. Any appropriation of public funds made by the department of public health and human services in derogation of the provisions of 50-1-117 is void as of June 30, 2021, and the funds allocated pursuant to these appropriations must be reallocated to eligible entities.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 548, L. 2021.**

50-1-119. Behavioral health system for future generations fund. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to be known as the behavioral health system for future generations fund.

(2) There must be deposited in the account money received from legislative general fund transfers.

(3) Eligible uses of the fund include:

(a) medicaid and CHIP matching funds for payments made to behavioral health settings;

(b) medicaid and CHIP matching funds for payments made to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

(c) statewide community-based investments to stabilize behavioral health and developmental disabilities service providers and delivery, increase and strengthen the behavioral health and developmental disabilities workforce, increase service capacity to meet identified behavioral health and developmental disabilities services demands, and increase opportunities for Montanans to receive integrated physical and behavioral health care;

(d) acquisition of new or remodeling of existing infrastructure or property to support the establishment of behavioral health settings and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

(e) planning, operation, or other contract expenses associated with intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities;

(f) planning, operation, or other contract expenses associated with behavioral health settings; and

(g) studying and planning of the development of a comprehensive behavioral health system.

(4) Funds in this account may not be used to operate existing state facilities.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 739, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 15, Ch. 739, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 22, 2023.

Part 2
Department

50-1-201. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

History: En. 69-4110.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4110.1; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-1-202. General powers and duties. (1) In order to carry out the purposes of the public health system to protect and promote the public health, the department, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, shall:

(a) make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders for correction, destruction, or removal of the condition;

(b) disseminate information and make recommendations for control of diseases and other conditions of public health importance;

(c) at the request of the governor, accept funds for and administer any federal health program for which responsibilities are delegated to states;

(d) identify, assess, prevent, and mitigate conditions of public health importance through:

(i) epidemiological tracking and investigation;

(ii) screening and testing programs;

(iii) isolation and quarantine measures;

(iv) treatment;

(v) abatement of public health nuisances;

(vi) inspections;

(vii) collecting and maintaining health information; or

(viii) other public health measures as allowed by law;

(e) promote efforts among public and private sector entities to develop and fund programs or initiatives that identify and ameliorate health problems;

(f) develop and promote training for members of the public health workforce;

(g) bring and pursue actions necessary to abate, restrain, or prosecute the violation of public health laws and rules;

(h) advise state agencies on the following as they relate to public buildings and facilities:

(i) location, drainage, water supply, water quality, heating, plumbing, sewer systems, and ventilation; and

(ii) the disposal of infectious or hazardous wastes;

(i) develop, administer, and promote activities for the protection and improvement of oral health;

(j) develop, adopt, and administer rules setting standards for the operation of programs to protect the health of mothers and children, including programs for nutrition, family planning services, improved pregnancy outcome, and programs authorized by Title X of the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300a, et seq., and Title V of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 501 through 510;

(k) conduct health education programs;

(l) provide consultation to school and local public health personnel and consult with the superintendent of public instruction on conditions of public health importance for schools;

(m) develop, adopt, and administer rules setting standards for a program to provide services to children with special health care needs, including standards for:

(i) diagnosis;

(ii) medical, surgical, and corrective treatment;

(iii) aftercare and related services; and

(iv) eligibility;

(n) provide consultation to local boards of health;

(o) promote cooperation and formal collaborative agreements between the state and tribes, tribal organizations, and the Indian health service regarding public health planning, priority setting, information and data sharing, reporting, resource allocation, funding, service delivery, jurisdiction, and other public health matters addressed in this title;

(p) adopt and enforce rules regarding:

(i) the reporting and control of communicable diseases and other conditions of public health importance;

(ii) the imposition of fees for testing, screening, and other services performed by the state laboratory;

(iii) the transportation of dead human bodies;

(iv) the issuance of licenses to laboratories that conduct analysis of public water supply systems; and

(v) public health requirements for school sites, including water supply and quality, sewage and waste disposal, and any other matters pertinent to the health and physical well-being of pupils, teachers, and others; and

(q) take measures to prevent and alleviate threats to the public health from the release of biological, chemical, or radiological agents capable of causing imminent infection, disability, or death.

(2) The department:

(a) has the power to use personnel of local public health agencies to assist in the administration of laws relating to public health services and functions; and

(b) may provide, implement, facilitate, or encourage other public health services and functions as considered reasonable and necessary.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4110; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 660, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 242, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 73, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 386, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.
Montana University System, Title 20, ch. 25.
Policy to protect children from abuse, 41-3-101.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2, part 1.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.
Departmental duties for control of tuberculosis, 50-17-103.
General administration of Department of Corrections, Title 53, ch. 1, part 2.

50-1-203. Public health inspections. (1) The department may make public health inspections of schoolhouses, churches, theaters, jails, and other buildings or facilities where persons assemble. If public health deficiencies are found in the facility, the department may direct that conditions be corrected within a reasonable time.

(2) Either the department or a local board of health may bring an action, including an action for injunctive relief, to correct the public health deficiencies.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4118; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

50-1-204. Quarantine and isolation measures. The department may adopt and enforce quarantine or isolation measures to prevent the spread of communicable disease. A person who does not comply with quarantine measures shall, on conviction, be fined not less than $10 or more than $100. Receipts from fines, except justice's court fines, must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4112; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 391, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Municipal power to establish detention hospital to prevent spread of disease, 7-34-4101.
Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.

50-1-205. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 219, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 92, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4515.**

50-1-206. Regulation of schools in matters of health. (1) The department shall adopt regulations prescribing the requirements for school sites, water supply, sewage and waste disposal, and any other matters pertinent to the health and physical well-being of the pupils, teachers, and others who frequent schools.

(2) The department shall furnish to the districts copies of such regulations.

History: **En. 75-8207 by Sec. 479, Ch. 5, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-8207.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Compliance with local health regulations required of nonpublic schools, 20-5-109.
School children to be immunized against communicable diseases, Title 20, ch. 5, part 4.
Trustees of community college district to comply with health provisions, 20-15-404.
Certification required for day-care center licensing, 52-2-722.

50-1-207. Nonopioid alternatives to opioid prescriptions — educational materials. The department of public health and human services shall develop and publish on its website an educational pamphlet regarding the use of nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of acute nonoperative, acute perioperative, subacute, or chronic pain. The pamphlet must, at a minimum, include:

(1) information on available nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of pain, including available nonopioid medicinal drugs or drug products and nonpharmacological therapies; and

(2) the advantages and disadvantages of the use of nonopioid alternatives.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-1-208 and 50-1-209 reserved.

50-1-210. Licensing of laboratories. (1) To authorize a laboratory to submit analyses and reports to the department of environmental quality under Title 75, chapter 6, part 1, the department shall issue a license to any laboratory that intends to conduct analysis of public water supply systems and that files a license application, on a form furnished by the department, demonstrating that it meets the criteria for licensing established by department rules.

(2) A person aggrieved by a decision of the department to grant, deny, or revoke a license may appeal the decision under the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 73, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-1-211. Terminated. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 2007.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 2007.**

Part 3
Board
(Repealed)

50-1-301. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4106.**

50-1-302. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4104.**

Part 4
Montana Public Health Improvement Task Force
(Terminated)

50-1-401. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

50-1-402. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

50-1-403. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

50-1-404. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

50-1-405. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

50-1-406. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 323, L. 1995.**

CHAPTER 2
LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-2-101. Repealed.
50-2-102. Repealed.
50-2-103. Federal funds.
50-2-104. County boards of health.
50-2-105. City boards of health.
50-2-106. City-county boards of health.
50-2-107. District boards of health.
50-2-108. Financing of local boards — inspection fund.
50-2-109. County board appropriations.
50-2-110. City board appropriations.
50-2-111. City-county board appropriations.
50-2-112. District board appropriations.
50-2-113. Contributions by school boards and other agencies authorized.
50-2-114. Repealed.
50-2-115. Legal adviser to local boards.
50-2-116. Powers and duties of local boards of health.
50-2-117. Appointment of local health officer by department when not made by local health board.
50-2-118. Powers and duties of local health officers.
50-2-119. Nursing services.
50-2-120. Assistance from law enforcement officials.
50-2-121. Removal of diseased prisoner from jail by local health officer.
50-2-122. Obstructing local health officer in the performance of duties unlawful.
50-2-123. Compliance order authorized.
50-2-124. Penalties for violations.
50-2-125 through 50-2-129 reserved.
50-2-130. Local regulations no more stringent than state regulations or guidelines.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Definitions, 50-1-101.

50-2-101. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 150, L. 2007.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; (3) thru (5)En. Sec. 78, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4501, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(2), (3), 69-4501; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 243, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 391, L. 2003.

50-2-102. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 200, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 79, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4502.

50-2-103. Federal funds. The department may accept funds for public health from an agency of the federal government or from any other agency or person and allocate funds to local boards.

History: En. Sec. 80, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4503.

50-2-104. County boards of health. (1) There is a county board of health in each county consisting of:

(a) the county commissioners and two members who are appointed by the county commissioners and serve at their pleasure; or

(b) a minimum of five persons who are appointed by the county commissioners and serve at their pleasure.

(2) Terms of appointed members must be staggered and be for 3 years each.

(3) The county commissioners shall establish the staggered order of terms and all rules necessary to establish and maintain the board.

History: En. Sec. 81, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4504; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1999.

Cross-References

County Board of Health in city-county consolidation, 7-3-1347.

Department to pay Health Board for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-105. City boards of health. (1) There is a city board of health in each first- and second-class city consisting of five persons who are appointed by the governing body of the city and serve at its pleasure.

(2) Terms of appointed members shall be staggered and shall be for 3 years each.

(3) The governing body of the city shall establish the staggered order of terms and all regulations necessary to establish and maintain the board.

History: En. Sec. 82, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 216, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4505.

Cross-References

County Board of Health in city-county consolidation, 7-3-1347.

Power to establish municipal Board of Health and to prescribe its powers and duties, 7-31-4101.

50-2-106. City-county boards of health. (1) By mutual agreement between the county commissioners and the governing body of the city or cities, the county and a city or cities may form a city-county board of health.

(2) A city-county board of health consists of:

(a) one person appointed by the county commissioners who serves at their pleasure;

(b) one person appointed by the governing body of each city that participates in the city-county board who serves at the pleasure of the appointing governing body;

(c) additional members appointed by the county commissioners and governing body or bodies of the city or cities participating in the city-county board as mutually agreed upon who serve at the pleasure of the appointing commissioners or governing body.

(3) The board must be composed of at least five persons. Terms of appointed members must be staggered and must be for 3 years each.

(4) By mutual agreement between the county commissioners and the governing body of the city or cities, they shall establish the staggered order of terms and all regulations necessary to establish and maintain the board.

History: En. Sec. 83, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 216, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4506; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1999.

Cross-References

County Board of Health in city-county consolidation, 7-3-1347.
Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.
Municipal Board of Health, 7-31-4101.
Department to pay Health Board for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-107. District boards of health. (1) By mutual agreement, two or more adjacent counties may unite to create a district board of health. First- and second-class cities located in those counties may elect to be included in the district.

(2) A district board of health consists of:

(a) one person appointed by the county commissioners of each county in the district who serves at the pleasure of the appointing commissioners;

(b) one person appointed by the governing body of each city that elects to be included in the district who serves at the pleasure of the appointing governing body;

(c) additional members appointed by the county commissioners of each county that participates in the district board as mutually agreed upon who serve at the pleasure of the appointing commissioners.

History: En. Sec. 84, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4507.

Cross-References

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.
Department to pay Health Board for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-108. Financing of local boards — inspection fund. (1) Local boards are financed by general fund appropriations, special levy appropriations, state and federal funds available, and contributions from school boards and other official and nonofficial agencies.

(2) There is within the state special revenue fund a local board inspection fund account.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(1); (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.
Source of account funding, 50-50-205, 50-51-204, 50-52-202.
Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.
Use of inspection fund account, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-109. County board appropriations. County boards are financed by an appropriation from the general fund of the county after approval of a budget in the way provided for other county offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(2)(a); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-110. City board appropriations. City boards are financed by an appropriation from the general fund of the city after approval of a budget in the way provided for other city offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 42.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(2)(b).

Cross-References

Property tax exemptions, Art. VIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-111. City-county board appropriations. If a city-county board is created, it is financed by one of the following methods:

(1) (a) The county commissioners and governing body of each participating city may mutually agree upon the division of expenses.

(b) The county's part of the total expenses is financed by an appropriation from the general fund of the county after approval of a budget in the way provided for other county offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

(c) Each participating city's part of the total expenses is financed by an appropriation from the general fund of the city after approval of a budget in the way provided for other city offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

(d) All money must be deposited with the county treasurer who shall disburse the money as county funds.

(2) (a) The county commissioners and governing body of each participating city may mutually agree upon the division of the expenses.

(b) Subject to 15-10-420, the county's part of the total expenses is financed by a levy on the taxable value of all taxable property outside the incorporated limits of each participating city after approval of a budget in the way provided for other county offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 40. If the levy is not sufficient to fund the county's share, the county commissioners may supplement it with an appropriation from the county general fund.

(c) Subject to 15-10-420, each participating city's part of the total expenses is financed by a levy on the taxable value of all taxable property within the incorporated limits of the city after approval of a budget in the way provided for other city offices and departments under Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

(d) All money must be deposited with the county treasurer who shall disburse the money as county funds.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(2)(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 453, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-112. District board appropriations. (1) District boards are financed by appropriations from the general funds of each county in the district in proportion to the population in each county.

(2) First- and second-class cities which elect to be included in the district contribute to the county in which they are located in the way provided for city-county boards under 50-2-111.

(3) All funds shall be deposited with the county treasurer of one of the counties as agreed upon by the commissioners of the counties in the district. The county treasurer shall disburse the funds as county funds.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(2)(d).

Cross-References

Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-113. Contributions by school boards and other agencies authorized. School boards and other official and nonofficial agencies may contribute funds to a local board.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(3).

Cross-References

School district trustees, Art. X, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 20, ch. 3, part 3.

Deposit of funds received from Department for inspections, 50-50-305, 50-51-303, 50-52-302.

50-2-114. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 453, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508(4); amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

50-2-115. Legal adviser to local boards. The county attorney shall serve as legal adviser to local boards as established by 50-2-104 and 50-2-106. The county attorney shall represent the local board in those matters relating to the functions, powers, and duties of local boards.

History: En. 69-4508.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4508.1.

Cross-References

Office of County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.

50-2-116. Powers and duties of local boards of health. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), in order to carry out the purposes of the public health system, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, each local board of health shall:

(a) recommend to the governing body the appointment of a local health officer who is:

(i) a physician;

(ii) a person with a master's degree in public health; or

(iii) a person with equivalent education and experience, as determined by the department;

(b) elect a presiding officer and other necessary officers;

(c) adopt bylaws to govern meetings;

(d) hold regular meetings at least quarterly and hold special meetings as necessary;

(e) identify, assess, prevent, and ameliorate conditions of public health importance through:

(i) epidemiological tracking and investigation;

(ii) screening and testing;

(iii) isolation and quarantine measures;

(iv) diagnosis, treatment, and case management;

(v) abatement of public health nuisances;

(vi) inspections;

(vii) collecting and maintaining health information;

(viii) education and training of health professionals; or

(ix) other public health measures as allowed by law;

(f) protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

(g) supervise or make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders for compliance or for correction, destruction, or removal of the conditions;

(h) bring and pursue actions and issue orders necessary to abate, restrain, or prosecute the violation of public health laws, rules, and local regulations;

(i) identify to the department an administrative liaison for public health. The liaison must be the local health officer in jurisdictions that employ a full-time local health officer. In jurisdictions that do not employ a full-time local health officer, the liaison must be the highest ranking public health professional employed by the jurisdiction.

(j) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130, propose for adoption by the local governing body necessary regulations that are not less stringent than state standards for the control and disposal of sewage from private and public buildings and facilities that are not regulated by Title 75, chapter 6, or Title 76, chapter 4. The regulations must describe standards for granting variances from the minimum requirements that are identical to standards promulgated by the department of environmental quality and must provide for appeal of variance decisions to the department of environmental quality as required by 75-5-305. If the local board of health regulates or permits water well drilling, the regulations must prohibit the drilling of a well if the well isolation zone, as defined in 76-4-102, encroaches onto adjacent private property without the authorization of the private property owner.

(2) Local boards of health may:

(a) accept and spend funds received from a federal agency, the state, a school district, or other persons or entities;

(b) propose for adoption by the local governing body necessary fees to administer regulations for the control and disposal of sewage from private and public buildings and facilities;

(c) propose for adoption by the local governing body regulations that do not conflict with 50-50-126 or rules adopted by the department:

(i) for the control of communicable diseases;

(ii) for the removal of filth that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

(iii) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130, for sanitation in public and private buildings and facilities that affects public health and for the maintenance of sewage treatment systems that do not discharge effluent directly into state water and that are not required to have an operating permit as required by rules adopted under 75-5-401;

(iv) subject to the provisions of 50-2-130 and Title 50, chapter 48, for tattooing and body-piercing establishments and that are not less stringent than state standards for tattooing and body-piercing establishments;

(v) for the establishment of institutional controls that have been selected or approved by the:

(A) United States environmental protection agency as part of a remedy for a facility under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.; or

(B) department of environmental quality as part of a remedy for a facility under the Montana Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act, Title 75, chapter 10, part 7; and

(vi) to implement the public health laws;

(d) adopt rules necessary to implement and enforce regulations adopted by the local governing body; and

(e) promote cooperation and formal collaborative agreements between the local board of health and tribes, tribal organizations, and the Indian health service regarding public health planning, priority setting, information and data sharing, reporting, resource allocation, service delivery, jurisdiction, and other matters addressed in this title.

(3) A local board of health may provide, implement, facilitate, or encourage other public health services and functions as considered reasonable and necessary.

(4) A directive, mandate, or order issued by a local board of health in response to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the governor as allowed in 10-3-303 or by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision as allowed in 10-3-402 and 10-3-403:

(a) remains in effect only during the declared state of emergency or disaster or until the governing body holds a public meeting and allows public comment and the majority of the governing body moves to amend, rescind, or otherwise change the directive, mandate, or order; and

(b) may not interfere with or otherwise limit, modify, or abridge a person's physical attendance at or operation of a religious facility, church, synagogue, or other place of worship.

(5) A regulation allowed in subsection (2)(c)(i), (2)(c)(ii), or (2)(c)(vi) adopted or a directive, mandate, or order implemented to carry out the provisions of this part that applies to the entire jurisdictional area of a town, city, or county under the jurisdiction of the local health board may not:

(a) compel a private business to deny a customer of the private business access to the premises or access to goods or services;

(b) deny a customer of a private business the ability to access goods or services provided by the private business; or

(c) include any of the following actions for noncompliance of actions described in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b):

(i) require the assessment of a fee or fine;

(ii) require the revocation of a license required for the operation of a private business;

(iii) find a private business owner guilty of a misdemeanor; or

(iv) bring any other retributive action against a private business owner, including but not limited to an action allowed under 50-2-123, a penalty allowed under 50-2-124, or any other criminal charge.

(6) The prohibition provided for in subsection (5)(b) does not apply to persons confirmed to have a communicable disease and who are currently under a public isolation order.

(7) The prohibitions provided for in subsection (5) do not restrict a local board of health from exercising its authority under this section to enforce and ensure compliance by private businesses with all lawfully adopted regulations, directives, and orders.

(8) As used in this section, "private business" means an individual or entity that is not principally a part of or associated with a government unit. The term includes but is not limited to a nonprofit or for-profit entity, a corporation, a sole proprietorship, or a limited liability company.

History: En. Sec. 86, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 216, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1971; amd. Secs. 108, 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4509; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 709, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 479, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 386, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 28, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 408, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Exemptions from requirements for sanitarians, 37-40-102.
Tuberculosis control, Title 50, ch. 17, part 1.
Sexually transmitted diseases, Title 50, ch. 18.

50-2-117. Appointment of local health officer by department when not made by local health board. (1) If a local health board does not appoint a health officer, the department may appoint a health officer 30 days after notification in writing has been given to the local health board.

(2) A health officer appointed by the department has the same authority as a health officer appointed by a local health board.

History: En. Sec. 88, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4511; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1983.

50-2-118. Powers and duties of local health officers. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), in order to carry out the purpose of the public health system, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, local health officers or their authorized representatives shall:

(a) make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders for compliance or for correction, destruction, or removal of the condition;

(b) take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and canceling events;

(c) report communicable diseases to the department as required by rule;

(d) establish and maintain quarantine and isolation measures as adopted by the local board of health; and

(e) pursue action with the appropriate court if this chapter or rules adopted by the local board or department under this chapter are violated.

(2) A directive, mandate, or order issued by a local health officer in response to a declaration of emergency or disaster by the governor as allowed in 10-3-303 or by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision as allowed in 10-3-402 and 10-3-403:

(a) remains in effect only during the declared state of emergency or disaster or until the governing body holds a public meeting and allows public comment and the majority of the governing body moves to amend, rescind, or otherwise change the directive, mandate, or order; and

(b) may not interfere with or otherwise limit, modify, or abridge a person's physical attendance at or operation of a religious facility, church, synagogue, or other place of worship.

(3) A local health officer may not enforce a regulation, directive, mandate, or order or issue an order that is in violation of 50-2-116(5).

(4) The prohibitions provided for in 50-2-116(5) do not restrict a local health officer from exercising the local health officer's authority under 50-2-123 or this section to enforce and ensure compliance by private businesses with all lawfully adopted regulations, directives, and orders.

History: En. Sec. 87, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 196, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4510; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 408, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

City-county director's powers and duties, 7-3-1346.
Tuberculosis control, Title 50, ch. 17, part 1.
Sexually transmitted diseases, Title 50, ch. 18.

50-2-119. Nursing services. (1) A local board may employ a qualified nurse for nursing services to persons under a physician's care who are confined to their homes.

(2) Before nursing services are provided, a physician must:

(a) determine that the person needs the services of a visiting nurse;

(b) direct the nurse to visit the person;

(c) specify the type and duration of services to be performed by the nurse.

(3) Persons shall pay for the services at rates set by the local board. Local boards, on behalf of persons receiving services, may accept payment from persons or public agencies either directly from or by contract with the person or agency. All payments received shall be deposited in a special county or city fund and used to defray expenses of providing the service.

History: En. Sec. 89, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4512.

Cross-References

Licensing of nurses, Title 37, ch. 8.

50-2-120. Assistance from law enforcement officials. A local health officer may request a sheriff, constable, or other peace officer to assist the health officer in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 90, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4513; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1810, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Local government law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.

50-2-121. Removal of diseased prisoner from jail by local health officer. (1) On written order of a local health officer, a diseased prisoner who is held in a jail and who is considered dangerous to the health of other prisoners may be removed to a hospital or other place of safety.

(2) If the prisoner was committed to jail by order of a court, the order for removal and treatment must be signed by the local health officer and filed with the court.

(3) When the prisoner recovers from the disease, the prisoner must be returned to the jail.

(4) A prisoner removed to a hospital or clinic for treatment may not be considered to have committed an escape.

History: En. Sec. 93, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4516; amd. Sec. 1811, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

County jails, Title 7, ch. 32, part 22.
Municipal jails, Title 7, ch. 32, part 42.

50-2-122. Obstructing local health officer in the performance of duties unlawful. It is unlawful to:

(1) hinder a local health officer in the performance of duties under this chapter;
(2) remove or deface any placard or notice posted by the local health officer; or
(3) violate a quarantine regulation.

History: En. Sec. 94, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4517; amd. Sec. 1812, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Obstructing peace officer or other public servant, 45-7-302.
Penalties for violations, 50-2-124.

50-2-123. Compliance order authorized. (1) If a person refuses or neglects to comply with a written order of a state or local health officer within a reasonable time specified in the order, the state or local health officer may cause the order to be complied with and initiate an action to recover any expenses incurred from the person who refused or neglected to comply with the order. The action to recover expenses shall be brought in the name of the city or county.

(2) An order of compliance or action allowed pursuant to subsection (1) may not be initiated for an order that violates 50-2-116(5) or 50-2-118(3).

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4519(1); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 408, L. 2021.

50-2-124. Penalties for violations. (1) (a) A person who does not comply with rules adopted by a local board that are not in conflict with 50-2-116(5) or 50-2-118(3) is subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10 or more than $200.

(b) A business entity that does not comply with rules adopted by a local board is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $250.

(2) Except as provided in 50-2-123 and subsection (1) of this section, a person who violates the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department under the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. On conviction, the person shall be fined not less than $10 or more than $500 or be imprisoned for not more than 90 days, or both.

(3) Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

(4) The local board or the county attorney of the county in which a violation described in subsection (1) occurred may petition a court of limited jurisdiction to impose the civil penalties allowed in subsection (1). Venue for an action to collect a civil penalty pursuant to subsection (1) is in the county in which the violation occurred or in a court of limited jurisdiction.

(5) Fines, except justice's court fines, must be paid to the county treasurer of the county in which the violation occurs.

(6) (a) As used in this section, "business entity" means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, or other legal entity recognized under state law.

(b) The term does not include an individual.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4519(2) thru (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 709, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1813, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 408, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

50-2-125 through 50-2-129 reserved.

50-2-130. Local regulations no more stringent than state regulations or guidelines. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (4) or unless required by state law, the local board may not propose for adoption by the local governing body a rule under 50-2-116(1)(j), (2)(c)(iii), or (2)(c)(iv) that is more stringent than the comparable state regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The local board may incorporate by reference comparable state regulations or guidelines.

(2) The local board may propose for adoption by the local governing body a rule to implement 50-2-116(1)(j), (2)(c)(iii), or (2)(c)(iv) that is more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines only if the local board makes a written finding, after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record, that:

(a) the proposed local standard or requirement protects public health or the environment; and

(b) the local board standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the local board's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed local standard or requirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the local board adopted after January 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines may petition the local board to review the rule. If the local board determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines, the local board shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the state regulations or guidelines or making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The local board may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed $250.

(b) A person may also petition the local board for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the local board adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no state regulations or guidelines existed and the state government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted local board rule.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 386, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 204, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 3

STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-3-101. Definitions.
50-3-102. Powers and duties of department regarding state fire prevention and investigation — rules.
50-3-103. Rules promulgated by department.
50-3-104. Repealed.
50-3-105. Repealed.
50-3-106. Appointment of special fire inspectors.
50-3-107. Repealed.
50-3-108. Repealed.
50-3-109. Tax on fire insurance premiums.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Local government fire protection, Title 7, ch. 33.
Fire hazards, Title 50, ch. 62, part 1.

50-3-101. Definitions. In this chapter, "department" means the department of justice and "fire prevention and investigation section" means the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice provided for in 2-15-2005.

History: En. 50-3-101 by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-3-102. Powers and duties of department regarding state fire prevention and investigation — rules. (1) For the purpose of reducing the state's fire loss, the department shall:

(a) inspect each unit of the Montana university system and other state buildings, including state institutions, as often as duties allow, but no more frequently than once each year unless requested by the commissioner of higher education for buildings in the university system, by the department of corrections or the department of public health and human services for state institutions, or by the department of administration for all other state buildings. A copy of the inspection report for units of the university system must be given to the commissioner of higher education, a copy of the inspection report for state institutions must be given to the department of corrections and the department of public health and human services, and a copy of the inspection report for all other state buildings must be given to the department of administration. The department of justice shall advise the commissioner of higher education and the directors of the departments of corrections, public health and human services, and administration concerning fire prevention, fire protection, and public safety when it distributes the reports.

(b) inspect public, business, or industrial buildings, as provided in chapter 61, and require conformance to law and rules promulgated under the provisions of this chapter;

(c) assist local governmental fire agencies organized under Title 7, chapter 33, in fire investigations and may initiate or supervise these investigations when, in its judgment, the initiation or supervision is necessary;

(d) provide fire prevention and fire protection information to public officials and the general public;

(e) serve as the state entity primarily responsible for promoting fire safety at the state level;

(f) encourage coordination of all services and agencies in fire prevention matters to reduce duplication and fill voids in services; and

(g) establish rules concerning responsibilities and procedures to be followed when there is a threat of explosive material in a building housing state offices.

(2) The department may adopt rules necessary for safeguarding life and property from the hazards of fire and carrying into effect the fire prevention laws of this state if the rules do not conflict with building regulations adopted by the department of labor and industry.

(3) The department shall adopt rules based on nationally recognized standards necessary for safeguarding life and property from the hazards associated with the manufacture, transportation, storage, sale, and use of explosive materials.

(4) If necessary to safeguard life and property under rules promulgated pursuant to this section, the department may maintain an action to enjoin the use of all or a portion of an existing building or restrain a specific activity until there is compliance with the rules.

(5) Except for statements of witnesses given during an investigation, information that may be held in confidence under 50-63-403, and criminal justice information subject to restrictions on dissemination in accordance with Title 44, chapter 5, all records maintained by the department must be open at all times to public inspection.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2737.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 519, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1202, R.C.M. 1947; (1)(k), (1)(l)En. Secs. 19, 22, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Secs. 2756, 2759, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 2756, 2759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Secs. 36, 37, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Secs. 82-1226, 82-1229, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202(1), (2), 82-1226, 82-1229; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 145, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 244, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Department of Justice to review provisions for protection of state-owned buildings, 2-17-112.
Local government fire protection, Title 7, ch. 33.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Licensing of persons using explosives in construction or demolition, Title 37, ch. 72.
State fire prevention and investigation program to set fire safety standards for day-care centers, 52-2-734.

50-3-103. Rules promulgated by department. (1) Rules promulgated by the department by authority of 50-3-102 must be reasonable and calculated to effect the purposes of this chapter. The rules must include but are not limited to requirements for:

(a) design, construction, installation, operation, storage, handling, maintenance, or use of structural requirements for various types of construction;
(b) building restrictions within congested districts;
(c) exit facilities from structures;
(d) fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, and fire extinguishing systems;
(e) fire emergency drills;
(f) flammable liquids;
(g) application of flammable finishes;
(h) explosives, acetylene, liquefied petroleum gas, and similar products;
(i) calcium carbide and acetylene generators;
(j) flammable motion picture film;
(k) combustible fibers;
(l) hazardous chemicals or materials;
(m) rubbish;
(n) open-flame devices;
(o) parking of vehicles;
(p) dust explosions;
(q) lightning protection;
(r) storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers; and
(s) other special fire hazards.

(2) If rules relate to building and equipment standards covered by the state building code or a county, city, or town building code, the rules are effective upon approval of the department of labor and industry and filing with the secretary of state.

(3) Federal or other nationally recognized standards for fire protection may be adopted in whole or in part by reference.

(4) Rules must be adopted as prescribed in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(5) Rules promulgated by the department may not prevent the installation of an aboveground storage tank in a community, city, or town with a population of 1,500 or less if the tank is installed in conformance with all other applicable laws and regulations.

(6) Rules promulgated by the department may not require diked areas or heat-actuated or other shutoff devices for storage tanks containing class I or class II liquids, as defined in the uniform fire code, intended only for private use on farms and ranches.

(7) A person violating any rule made under the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: Ap. p. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; Sec. 82-1202.1, R.C.M.; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 519, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1202, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202(3), (4), 82-1202.1(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 387, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.
Building construction standards, Title 50, ch. 60.
Warning notice of violation required for certain storage of class I or class II liquids, 50-62-112.
State fire prevention and investigation program to adopt and enforce rules for fire safety in day-care centers, 52-2-734.

50-3-104. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2741, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2741, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1207.

50-3-105. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1208(1).

50-3-106. Appointment of special fire inspectors. Special fire inspectors may be appointed to perform any inspection of the fire prevention and investigation section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1208(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-3-107. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2742, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 453, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1208(3).

50-3-108. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2760, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2760, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 177, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1230.

50-3-109. Tax on fire insurance premiums. (1) Each insurer authorized to effect insurance on risks enumerated in subsection (2) that is doing business in this state shall pay to the state auditor during the month of February or March in each year, in addition to the taxes on premiums required by law to be paid by it, taxes on the fire portion of the direct premiums on the enumerated risks received during the previous calendar year after deducting cancellations and return premiums. A tax of 2½% must be deposited in the general fund as provided in 33-2-708.

(2) The risks referred to in subsection (1) are:

(a) insurance of houses, buildings, and all other kinds of property against loss or damage by fire or other casualty;

(b) all kinds of insurance on goods, merchandise, or other property in the course of transportation, whether by land, water, or air;

(c) insurance against loss or damage to motor vehicles resulting from accident, collision, or marine and inland navigation and transportation perils;

(d) insurance of growing crops against loss or damage resulting from hail or the elements;

(e) insurance against loss or damage by water to any goods or premises arising from the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps, or other apparatus;

(f) insurance against loss or legal liability for loss because of damage to property caused by the use of teams or vehicles, whether by accident or collision or by explosion of any engine, tank, boiler, pipe, or tire of any vehicle; and

(g) insurance against theft of the whole or any part of a vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2761, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2761, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1231; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 703, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 532, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 380, L. 2003.

Cross-References

State Auditor, Art. VI, sec. 1, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 15, part 6.
Commissioner of Insurance, 2-15-1903.
Insurers to report premiums for tax purposes, 33-2-705.

CHAPTER 4
HEALTH CARE POLICY

Part 1 — General Provisions

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50-4-103. Terminated.
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50-4-109. Interference prohibited.
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Part 3 — State Health Care Reports (Repealed)

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50-4-510. Short title.
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50-4-513 through 50-4-515 reserved.
50-4-516. Short title.
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Part 7 — Conversion of Nonprofit Health Entity to For-Profit or Mutual Benefit Corporation

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50-4-720. Distribution of proceeds — annual report.

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50-4-801. Short title.
50-4-802. Legislative intent and purpose.
50-4-803. Definitions.
50-4-804. Rulemaking authority.
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50-4-806. Grants — application process — obligation of communities.
50-4-807 through 50-4-809 reserved.
50-4-810. Repealed.
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50-4-815. Community health center account.

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50-4-1001. Short title.
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50-4-1003. Definitions.
50-4-1004. Prohibitions.
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Part 11 — Protection for Right of Conscience

50-4-1101. Definitions.
50-4-1102. Right of conscience for health care institutions and health care payers — immunity — exceptions.
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50-4-1104. Exercise of conscience not grounds for loss of privileges, immunities, or public benefits.
50-4-1105. Whistleblower protections.
50-4-1106. Free speech protections — notification of complaints — penalty.
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Part 1
General Provisions

50-4-101. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-4-102. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-4-103. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-104. State health care policy. (1) It is the policy of the state of Montana to continue to investigate and develop strategies that result in all residents having access to quality health services at costs that are affordable.

(2) It is further the policy of the state of Montana that:

(a) Montana's health care system should ensure that care is delivered in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

(b) health promotion, preventative health services, and public health services should play a central role in the system;

(c) the patient-provider relationship should be a fundamental component of Montana's health care system;

(d) individuals should be encouraged to play a significant role in determining their health and appropriate use of the health care system;

(e) accurate and timely health care information should play a significant role in determining the individual's health and appropriate use of the health care system;

(f) whenever possible, market-based approaches should be relied on to contain the growth in health care spending while attempting to achieve expanded access, cost containment, and improved quality; and

(g) the process of health care reform in Montana should be carried out gradually and sequentially to ensure that any undesirable impacts of the state's reform policies on other aspects of the state's economy, particularly on small businesses, are minimized.

(3) The legislature recognizes the need to increase the emphasis on the education of consumers of health care services. Consumers should be educated concerning the health care system, payment for services, ultimate costs of health care services, and the benefit to consumers generally of providing only those services to the consumer that are reasonable and necessary.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-105. Limitations of provider agreements — exception. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a provider who has entered into a provider agreement with a person as defined in 33-1-202 is not required to provide a discount or accept payment at the rate agreed to in the provider agreement for health care services that are provided to an insured individual if the payment for the services is made directly or indirectly or is otherwise required to be made:

(a) under casualty insurance as described in 33-1-206; or

(b) under property insurance as described in 33-1-210.

(2) Insurance payments made to a provider of health care services under subsection (1) must be paid according to the terms of the applicable policy or in accordance with any written agreement or contract existing between the provider and the insurer or a person contractually engaged by the insurer to perform services or an insurance function for the insurer. This section does not prohibit negotiations regarding the amount of the billed charges or a reasonable request for additional information or documents in order to evaluate the claim.

(3) An insurer making payment on a claim under a disability insurance policy, member contract, health benefit plan, group health plan, blanket disability insurance policy as defined in 33-22-601, or other medical coverage shall credit toward satisfaction of the insured's deductible, copayment, or coinsurance, if any, any payment made by a casualty or property insurer but only if the payment to be credited is applied to a covered medical expense under the terms of the applicable health policy.

(4) The provisions of this section apply regardless of whether the insured may be considered a third-party beneficiary of the provider agreement.

(5) The provisions of this section do not apply to a direct patient care agreement established pursuant to 50-4-107.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 262, L. 2021.**

50-4-106. Definitions. As used in 50-4-106 through 50-4-109, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Direct fee" means a fee charged by a health care provider to a patient or a patient's designee for health care services provided by, or to be provided by, the health care provider to the patient. The term includes a fee in any form, including but not limited to a:

(a) monthly retainer;

(b) membership fee;

(c) subscription fee;

(d) fee paid under a direct patient service agreement; or

(e) fee for a service, visit, or episode of care.

(2) "Direct patient care" means a health care service provided by a health care provider to a patient in return for payment in accordance with a direct fee. The term includes services provided by means of telehealth as defined in 33-22-138.

(3) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(4) "Health care services" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider, including medical or psychological diagnosis, treatment, evaluation, advice, or other services that affect the structure or any function of the human body.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 2021.**

50-4-107. Direct patient care agreements — requirements — prohibition. (1) A patient or the patient's legal representative may enter into a direct patient care agreement with a health care provider to arrange for health care services for the patient.

(2) A direct patient care agreement must be in writing, and the patient or the patient's legal representative must be given a copy of the written agreement at the time the agreement is signed.

(3) The agreement must:

(a) describe the health care services to be provided in exchange for payment of a direct fee;

(b) specify the direct fee required and any additional fees to be paid by a third party;

(c) specify the patient's payment obligation;

(d) prohibit the provider from charging or receiving additional compensation for health care services included in the direct fee;

(e) prohibit the provider from submitting to a health insurance issuer or a contractor or subcontractor of a health insurance issuer a claim for payment for health care services provided to a patient under a direct patient care agreement;

(f) meet the disclosure requirements of 50-4-108; and

(g) unequivocally provide that the charges for medical services not included in the agreement are the sole responsibility of the patient.

(4) A direct patient care agreement may allow for the direct fee and any additional fees to be paid by a third party.

(5) (a) Either party to a direct patient care agreement may terminate the agreement in writing without penalty or payment of a termination fee:

(i) at any time; or

(ii) after notice as specified in the agreement. The notice requirement may not exceed 60 days.

(b) The agreement must specify the terms of cancellation, including terms that cover relocation or military duty by the patient.

(6) The direct fees paid pursuant to this section are an eligible medical expense for the purposes of 15-61-202.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 262, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 12, Ch. 701, L. 2023, provided that this section applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to tax years beginning after December 31, 2022.

50-4-108. Disclosure required. A direct patient care agreement must prominently display a written disclaimer that is either printed on or accompanies all application and guideline materials distributed by or on behalf of the agreement. The disclaimer must read substantially as follows:

Notice: The organization facilitating the direct patient care agreement is not an insurance company, and the direct patient care company guidelines and agreement operation are not an insurance policy. The agreement does not meet any individual health insurance mandate that may be required by federal law. Participation in the direct patient care agreement or a subscription to any of its documents should not be considered to be a health insurance policy. Regardless of whether you receive treatment for medical issues through the direct patient care agreement, you are always personally responsible for the payment of any additional medical expenses that you may incur.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 262, L. 2021.

50-4-109. Interference prohibited. (1) A licensing board for a health care provider or another state agency may not prohibit, interfere with, initiate a legal or administrative proceeding against, or impose a fine or penalty against:

(a) a health care provider solely because the provider provides direct patient care; or

(b) a person solely because the person pays a direct fee for direct patient care.

(2) A health insurance issuer as defined in 33-22-140 or a health care provider may not prohibit, interfere with, initiate a legal or administrative proceeding against, or impose a fine or penalty against:

(a) a health care provider solely because the provider provides direct patient care; or

(b) a person solely because the person pays a direct fee for direct patient care.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 262, L. 2021.

50-4-110 reserved.

50-4-111. Health care sharing ministry — definition — requirements. (1) As used in this section, "health care sharing ministry" means a nonprofit organization:

(a) that is tax-exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a);

(b) whose members:

(i) share a common set of ethical or religious beliefs; and

(ii) share medical expenses among members in accordance with those beliefs without regard to the state in which a member resides or is employed;

(c) whose members retain membership even after developing a medical condition;

(d) that conducts an annual audit that is performed by an independent certified public accounting firm in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and that is made available to the public on request; and

(e) that does not use a compensated or commissioned insurance producer, representative, or other person to solicit or enroll members in this state. This subsection (1)(e) does not apply to:

(i) a salaried person employed by the health care sharing ministry who does not receive a form of commission, compensation, or other valuable consideration based on the enrolling of new members; or

(ii) a new member referral program providing credit for existing members of the health care sharing ministry if the program is limited to credit for no more than six new members annually.

(2) A health care sharing ministry shall provide a written disclaimer in 12-point font on or accompanying all applications or guideline materials distributed by or on behalf of the health care sharing ministry that states in substance:

"NOTICE: The health care sharing ministry facilitating the sharing of medical expenses is not an insurance company and does not use insurance agents or pay commissions to insurance agents. The health care sharing ministry's guidelines and plan of operation are not an insurance policy. Without health care insurance, there is no guarantee that you, a fellow member, or any other person who is a party to the health care sharing ministry agreement will be protected in the event of illness or emergency. Regardless of whether you receive any payment for medical expenses or whether the health care sharing ministry terminates, withdraws from the faith-based agreement, or continues to operate, you are always personally responsible for the payment of your own medical bills. If your participation in the health care sharing ministry ends, state law may subject you to a waiting period before you are able to apply for health insurance coverage."

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Insurance Code — exception for health care sharing ministry, 33-1-102.

Montana Insurance Code — definitional exclusions for health care sharing ministry, 33-1-201.

Part 2
Administration
(Repealed and Terminated)

50-4-201. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-4-202. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-4-203. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1997.

50-4-204. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-205. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-206. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

Part 3
State Health Care Reports
(Repealed)

50-4-301. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 606, L. 1993.

50-4-302. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-303. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-304. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-305. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-306. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-307. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-308. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-309. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-310. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-311. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-312. Repealed. Sec. 137, Ch. 114, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1995; amd. sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1995.**

Part 4
Health Care Planning Regions (Repealed and Terminated)

50-4-401. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-402. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-403. Terminated. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1997.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 378, L. 1995.**

Part 5
Patient's Right to Know

50-4-501. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-502. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 206, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 378, L. 1995.**

50-4-503. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 378, L. 1995.
History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 606, L. 1993.**

50-4-504. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Health care" includes both physical health care and mental health care.

(2) "Health care provider" or "provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(3) "Health insurer" means any health insurance company, health service corporation, health maintenance organization, insurer providing disability insurance as described in 33-1-207, and to the extent permitted under federal law, any administrator of an insured, self-insured, or publicly funded health care benefit plan offered by public and private entities.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

50-4-505. Uniform claim forms and procedures. The commissioner of insurance may adopt by rule uniform health insurance claim forms and uniform standards and procedures for the use of the forms and processing of claims, including the submission of claims by means of an electronic claims processing system.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 531, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 206, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

State Auditor as ex officio Commissioner of Insurance, 2-15-1903.

50-4-506 through 50-4-509 reserved.

50-4-510. Short title. Sections 50-4-510 through 50-4-512 may be cited as the "Patient's Right to Know the Costs of Medical Procedures Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2009.

50-4-511. Legislative purpose. The purpose of 50-4-510 through 50-4-512 is to provide health care consumers with better information on the cost of their medical care and to introduce elements of competition into the marketplace.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 2009.

50-4-512. Disclosures required of health care providers. (1) Upon request of a patient or a patient's agent, a health care provider, outpatient center for surgical services, clinic, or hospital shall provide the patient or the patient's agent with its estimated charge for a health care service or course of treatment that exceeds $500. The estimate must be provided for a service that a patient is receiving or has been recommended to receive. The estimate must be provided at the time the service is scheduled or within 10 business days of the patient's or agent's request.

(2) The patient or patient's agent may request that the information required under this section be provided in writing or electronically.

(3) The estimated charge:

(a) must represent a good faith effort to provide accurate information to the patient or the patient's agent;

(b) is not a binding contract upon the parties; and

(c) is not a guarantee that the estimated amount will be the charged amount or will account for unforeseen conditions.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 206, L. 2009.

50-4-513 through 50-4-515 reserved.

50-4-516. Short title. Sections 50-4-516 through 50-4-518 may be cited as the "Patient's Right to Know of Insurance Coverage Provisions Act".

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2009.

50-4-517. Legislative purpose. The purpose of 50-4-516 through 50-4-518 is:

(1) to provide health care consumers with better information regarding the portion of their health care costs that will be paid by their health insurer and the portion that they will have to pay themselves; and

(2) to introduce elements of competition into the marketplace.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 2009.

50-4-518. Disclosures required of health insurers — limitations. (1) When requested by an insured or the insured's agent, a health insurer shall provide a summary of the insured's coverage for a specific health care service or course of treatment when an actual charge or estimate of charges by a health care provider, outpatient center for surgical services, clinic, or hospital exceeds $500.

(2) The insured or insured's agent may request that the information required under this section be provided in writing or electronically.

(3) The health insurer shall make a good faith effort to provide accurate information under this section. The health insurer is only required to provide information under this section based upon cost estimates and procedure codes obtained by the insured from the insured's health care provider.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 2009.

Part 6
Certificates of Public Advantage
(Repealed)

50-4-601. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 1, 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

50-4-602. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

50-4-603. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 3, 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 2007.

50-4-604. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-605. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 1997.

50-4-606 through 50-4-608 reserved.

50-4-609. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-610. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-611. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 378, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 4, 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

50-4-612. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 606, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 378, L. 1995.

50-4-613 through 50-4-620 reserved.

50-4-621. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 526, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

50-4-622. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 526, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

50-4-623. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 17, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 526, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 526, L. 1995.

Part 7
Conversion of Nonprofit Health Entity to For-Profit or Mutual Benefit Corporation

50-4-701. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Montana state auditor and ex officio commissioner of insurance provided for in 2-15-1903.

(2) "Control or governance" means the possession, indirect or direct, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person or entity, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, or otherwise unless the power is solely the result of an official position with a corporate office held by the person.

(3) (a) "Conversion" or "conversion transaction" means the sale, transfer, lease, exchange, transfer by exercise of an option, optioning, conveyance, merger, affiliation, mutualization, joint venture, or other disposition by a nonprofit health entity or another person or entity resulting in

the transfer of control or governance to a person or entity other than the nonprofit health entity of the lesser of:

(i) more than 10% in fair market value of the assets or operations of a nonprofit health entity; or

(ii) assets of a nonprofit health entity amounting to a fair market value of $5 million or more.

(b) A disposition or transfer constitutes a conversion transaction regardless of whether it occurs directly or indirectly and whether it occurs in a single transaction or a series of related transactions. In determining the value of a tangible asset under this definition, the value of the asset must be calculated net of any mortgage, lien, or other encumbrance on the asset that exists of record.

(c) The term does not include:

(i) a transaction in the ordinary course of the nonprofit health entity's business that does not result in a material change in the nonprofit health entity's ownership, management structure, or nonprofit corporate mission;

(ii) a transaction or series of transactions in the ordinary course of a nonprofit health entity's business if the effect of the transaction or series of transactions is not to convert the nonprofit health entity from a nonprofit to a for-profit entity, to transfer the nonprofit health entity's business or operations to a for-profit entity, or to transfer the control or benefit of public assets and the proceeds of public assets to a mutual benefit or for-profit entity;

(iii) awards, grants, or payments to or on behalf of intended members or beneficiaries, consistent with the lawful purposes of a nonprofit health entity;

(iv) a change in the membership of the board of directors or officers of the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit health entity if the change in membership does not result in a change in the nonprofit corporate status of the nonprofit health entity, does not result from a transfer of control, governance, or ownership of the nonprofit health entity, and does not result from transfer of a power of appointment of directors or officers of the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit health entity;

(v) settlement, satisfaction, or payment of a claim or suit against or debt of the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit health entity incurred in the ordinary course of business;

(vi) execution of a promissory note, guaranty, or other evidence of indebtedness for the amount of a loan, the proceeds of which are paid solely to the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit health entity;

(vii) any payment, transfer, or other transaction required by law or by order of any authorized administrative officer or agency, including but not limited to payment of taxes, fees, fines, penalties, or other assessments to a government or a nonprofit health entity or a transaction ordered by the commissioner or the attorney general;

(viii) purchases, sales, or transfers in the ordinary course of business for fair market value of cash or cash equivalents owned by the nonprofit health entity or any wholly owned subsidiary in exchange for goods, products, services, or an interest in property, including but not limited to stocks, shares, bonds, notes, evidences of indebtedness, negotiable instruments, or an ownership interest in an entity, to be held by the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary;

(ix) granting of an encumbrance in the ordinary course of business, such as a security interest or mortgage deed with respect to an asset owned by the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit health entity to secure indebtedness for borrowed money, the net proceeds of which are paid solely to the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary, and a foreclosure or other exercise of remedies permitted with respect to an encumbrance;

(x) sale, investment, or transfer in the ordinary course of business for fair market value of an interest in property owned by the nonprofit health entity or a wholly owned subsidiary, the net proceeds of which are paid solely to the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary;

(xi) any transfer of assets between a nonprofit health entity that is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation in which all of the members are nonprofit public benefit corporations, provided that the management of all assets transferred by a nonprofit public benefit corporation in a transaction described in this subsection (3)(c)(xi) continue to be managed in a manner consistent with the public benefit purpose of the transferring nonprofit public benefit corporation; or

(xii) any other transaction or proposed transaction for fair market value if:

(A) the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary retains or will retain substantially the same degree of control, governance, or ownership of the proceeds of the transaction that the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary held in the assets or operations prior to the transaction or proposed transaction;

(B) the nonprofit health entity maintains its operations as a nonprofit health entity and public assets or the proceeds of public assets are maintained as public assets; and

(C) none of the assets or operations of the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary inure or will inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of any officer, director, trustee, or employee of the nonprofit health entity or its wholly owned subsidiary.

(4) "Fair market value" means the fair market value as of the date of the transaction or proposed transaction as determined by an independent appraisal of the assets or operations performed and communicated by a qualified appraiser according to applicable professional appraisal standards.

(5) "Health maintenance organization" has the meaning provided in 33-31-102.

(6) "Health service corporation" has the meaning provided in 33-30-101.

(7) (a) "Nonprofit health entity" means:

(i) a nonprofit health maintenance organization; or

(ii) a nonprofit health service corporation.

(b) The term includes any entities affiliated with a nonprofit health entity through ownership, governance, or membership, such as a holding company or subsidiary.

(8) "Ordinary course of business" means with respect to a transaction or disposition that the transaction comports with the usual and customary practices of the kind of business in which the nonprofit health entity is engaged.

(9) "Public assets" include:

(a) assets held for the benefit of the public or the community;

(b) assets in which the public has an ownership interest;

(c) assets owned by a governmental entity; and

(d) assets owned by a nonprofit corporation to the extent that the corporation holds assets in a charitable trust.

(10) "Transferee" means the person in a conversion transaction that receives the ownership or control of the nonprofit health entity that is the subject of the conversion transaction or of the nonprofit health entity's assets.

(11) "Transferor" means the nonprofit health entity that is the subject of the conversion transaction or the corporation that owns the nonprofit health entity that is the subject of the conversion transaction.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-702. Conversion transaction — approval. A person may not engage in a conversion transaction involving a nonprofit health entity unless the commissioner and the attorney general issue orders approving the conversion transaction.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-703. Rulemaking authority. The commissioner and the attorney general may adopt rules to carry out this part, including rules that:

(1) specify the form and content of the written notice, required documents, and supplemental information;

(2) develop procedures under which proprietary business information and trade secrets are protected from public disclosure for the purposes of 50-4-708 to the extent allowed by law; and

(3) establish hearing and appeal procedures.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 399, L. 2007.

50-4-704. Rights and powers. (1) (a) This part may not be construed to impair the rights and powers of a court or the attorney general with respect to the assets of any public benefit corporation, to any asset devoted to charity, or to a charitable trust as provided in 72-38-820 through 72-38-826.

(b) Filing of an application under this part satisfies any notice requirements under 35-2-609, 35-2-617, or 35-2-722.

(2) (a) (i) Nothing in this part precludes the attorney general, the commissioner, or a nonprofit health entity from filing an action in district court under Title 27, chapter 8, seeking a declaration that a nonprofit health entity transaction is or is not a conversion transaction, as defined in 50-4-701, or a declaration of whether assets of a nonprofit health entity are or are not public assets as defined in 50-4-701. No other declaratory relief may be sought in a court regarding any issue arising from a transaction that is or is alleged to be a conversion transaction under this part, except that a transferor or transferee may file an action in district court seeking an injunction prohibiting the attorney general or commissioner from making an unlawful disclosure of trade secrets or proprietary or other confidential information.

(ii) In an action under this subsection (2) to determine whether assets of a nonprofit health entity are or are not public assets, the presumption in 50-4-715(3) applies.

(b) The commissioner or the attorney general, or both, may contract with experts as reasonably necessary to bring or defend an action pursuant to this subsection (2) and the nonprofit health entity shall pay the costs reasonably incurred by the commissioner or the attorney general for the experts' services.

(c) In an action under this subsection (2), if the court finds that the transaction is a conversion transaction subject to this part and the transaction has not been completed, the court shall enter an injunction prohibiting any further actions to complete the transaction until it has been approved by the commissioner and attorney general under 50-4-702.

(d) In an action under this subsection (2), if the court finds that a completed transaction was a conversion transaction that the commissioner and attorney general have not approved under 50-4-702, the court shall enter an injunction requiring the nonprofit health entity or any successor to the assets involved in the transaction to submit an application for review under 50-4-707. After reviewing any application submitted following a court order under this subsection (2)(d), the attorney general may direct that the nonprofit health entity or any successor to the assets involved in the transaction distribute the fair market value of any public assets involved in the transaction as required under 50-4-720.

(e) The court issuing the declaratory judgment retains jurisdiction to enforce any direction by the attorney general for distribution of the fair market value of public assets under this subsection (2).

(3) This part may not be construed to make void or voidable or to require any distribution of assets with respect to any transaction or series of transactions completed before April 8, 2005, even if that transaction or series of transactions is considered as part of a conversion transaction completed on or after April 8, 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-705 and 50-4-706 reserved.

50-4-707. Application process — content. (1) A person that seeks to engage in a conversion transaction for a nonprofit health entity and the nonprofit health entity shall submit an application to the commissioner and a copy of the application to the attorney general.

(2) The application submitted under subsection (1) is in addition to any other filing required by law.

(3) An application must include:

(a) the name of the proposed transferor;

(b) the name of the proposed transferee;

(c) the names of any other parties to the conversion transaction agreement;

(d) the terms of the proposed conversion transaction, including but not limited to a description and valuation of all consideration exchanges as a part of or as a result of the conversion and the extent to which the assets proposed to be converted are public assets;

(e) a copy of the conversion transaction agreement;

(f) a financial and community impact analysis report from an independent expert or consultant that addresses the criteria in 50-4-715 through 50-4-717;

(g) an independent valuation of the fair market value of the nonprofit health entity for a valuation date within 1 year prior to receipt by the nonprofit health entity or publication of a bona fide bid, offer, or letter of intent to acquire the nonprofit health entity; and

(h) an antitrust analysis prepared by an appropriate expert.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-708. Public records. All documents and records, excluding any proprietary or confidential information as defined by law, submitted to the commissioner or attorney general by any person, including a nonprofit health entity making application under 50-4-707, in connection with the commissioner's and the attorney general's review of the proposed nonprofit health entity conversion transaction are public records to the extent required by the provisions of applicable state law. The contents of the application submitted to the commissioner pursuant to 50-4-707 are a public record, except that any proprietary information or trade secret that may by law be kept confidential is not a public record.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-709. Receiving an application — notice of application. (1) Within 15 working days after receiving an application for a conversion transaction, the commissioner shall:

(a) publish notice of the application by the internet and by press release to the most widely circulated newspapers in a nonprofit health entity's service area; and

(b) maintain a list of, and notify by e-mail or first-class mail, any person that has requested in writing notice of the filing of an application.

(2) The notice under subsection (1) must:

(a) state that an application has been received;

(b) state the names of the parties to the conversion transaction;

(c) describe the contents of the application;

(d) state the date by which a person shall submit written comments on the application; and

(e) provide the date, time, and place of the public hearing on the conversion transaction.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-710. Public hearing. (1) As soon as practicable, but no later than 90 days after receiving a complete application for a conversion transaction, including all necessary expert reports, the commissioner or a designee shall hold a public hearing.

(2) Any person may file written comments and exhibits or make a statement at the public hearing.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-711. Procedures. (1) In the hearing required by 50-4-710, the commissioner and the attorney general shall agree on and jointly appoint a qualified person to preside over the hearing. The commissioner, the attorney general, the transferor, and the transferee may use discovery procedures as provided in Title 25, chapter 20. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, the procedures for conducting a contested case hearing, as provided in 2-4-611(3) and (4), 2-4-612 through 2-4-614, and 2-4-621 through 2-4-623, and the procedures for judicial review of contested case decisions under Title 2, chapter 4, part 7, apply.

(2) Notwithstanding any otherwise applicable rule of evidence, the commissioner and attorney general shall provide for the receipt of comments from the public in writing or on the record at the hearing. Oral public comments are not subject to cross-examination without the consent of the person providing the comments. However, the commissioner and the attorney general may rely on factual information provided in public comment only if the person providing the comment consents to cross-examination or the commissioner or the attorney general makes a specific finding that the factual information meets the requirements of Rule 804(b)(5) of the Montana Rules of Evidence.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-712. Experts. (1) The commissioner or the attorney general, or both, may contract with experts as reasonably necessary to:

(a) determine whether to approve a conversion transaction generally;

(b) perform an independent valuation of fair market value of the public assets of the transferor;

(c) evaluate the impact of the conversion on the affected community;

(d) determine whether there has been due diligence by the transferor in evaluating the proposed conversion transaction; and

(e) determine the existence of any conflicts of interest.

(2) If the commissioner or attorney general contracts for expert assistance under subsection (1), the transferor and the transferee shall each pay half of the costs reasonably incurred by the commissioner or the attorney general for the expert's services.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-713. Deadline for approval or nonapproval. (1) Within 60 days after the record, including the public hearing process, has been closed, the commissioner and the attorney general shall each issue a separate order to:

(a) approve the conversion transaction, with or without modifications; or

(b) disapprove the conversion transaction.

(2) If the commissioner and the attorney general do not both determine that the conversion transaction is approved, the conversion transaction is disapproved.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the commissioner or the attorney general may, for cause, extend the time for making a determination for a 60-day period.

(4) The commissioner and the attorney general are limited to a maximum of two 60-day extensions for making a determination on the same application.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-714. Effect of determination. Determinations made by the commissioner and the attorney general under 50-4-713 become effective on the date on which both the commissioner and the attorney general have issued orders under 50-4-713.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-715. Criteria for attorney general approval of conversion transaction. (1) The attorney general may not approve a conversion transaction except upon a finding that the conversion transaction is in the public interest. If the attorney general or a court pursuant to 50-4-704 determines that the transaction does not involve public assets, the attorney general may not disapprove the conversion transaction under the provisions of this part.

(2) In determining whether a conversion transaction is in the public interest, the attorney general shall require that:

(a) the fair market value of public assets is preserved and protected;

(b) the fair market value of public assets is expended or invested with reasonable and prudent consideration of the potential risk of financial loss associated with the conversion transaction;

(c) the fair market value of the public assets of a nonprofit health entity will be distributed as provided in 50-4-720;

(d) no part of the public assets of the transferor inure directly or indirectly to an officer, director, or trustee of the transferor or to the transferee or an officer, director, trustee, shareholder, or employee of the transferee or to any other person that is not a foundation or nonprofit organization approved to receive the assets by the attorney general; and

(e) an officer, director, or trustee of the nonprofit health entity does not receive any immediate or future remuneration as a result of a proposed conversion transaction except for the reasonable value of services rendered pursuant to a valid contract between the officer, director, or trustee and the nonprofit health entity.

(3) For purposes of the attorney general's review under 35-2-609, 35-2-617, and this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that the assets of a nonprofit health entity are public assets.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-716. Criteria for distribution of assets. (1) The public assets distributed to a foundation or nonprofit organization in accordance with 50-4-715 or 50-4-720 must be in the form of cash or a combination of cash and publicly traded securities or bonds or similar assets that are readily convertible to cash and for which a secondary market exists.

(2) The attorney general may determine that a distribution of assets of a nonprofit health entity is not required if the transaction is determined not to be a conversion transaction and is a transaction in the ordinary course of business and for fair market value.

(3) In determining fair market value, the attorney general may consider all relevant factors that may include but are not limited to:

(a) the value of the nonprofit health entity or an affiliate or the assets of the nonprofit health entity or affiliate that are determined as if the nonprofit health entity or affiliate had voting stock outstanding and 100% of its stock was freely transferable and available for purchase without restriction;

(b) the value as a going concern;

(c) the market value;

(d) the investment or earnings value;

(e) the net asset value; and

(f) a control premium, if any.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-717. Criteria for commissioner approval of conversion transaction. (1) The commissioner may not approve a conversion transaction except upon a finding that the conversion transaction is in the public interest. If the attorney general or a court pursuant to 50-4-704 determines that the transaction does not involve public assets, the commissioner may not disapprove the conversion transaction under the provisions of this part.

(2) In determining whether a conversion transaction is in the public interest, the commissioner shall consider:

(a) whether the transferor exercised due diligence in deciding to engage in a conversion transaction, selecting the transferee, and negotiating the terms and conditions of the conversion transaction;

(b) the procedures that the transferor used in making the decision, including whether appropriate expert assistance was used;

(c) whether any conflicts of interest were disclosed, including conflicts of interest of board members, executives, and experts retained by the transferor, transferee, or any other parties to the conversion transaction;

(d) whether the conversion has the likelihood of creating a significant adverse effect on the availability or accessibility of health care services or health insurance coverage in the affected community;

(e) whether the conversion transaction includes sufficient safeguards to ensure that the affected community will have continued access to affordable health care;

(f) whether any management contract under the conversion transaction is for reasonable value; and

(g) whether the conversion transaction:

(i) is equitable to the public interest, enrollees, insureds, shareholders, and certificate holders, if any, of the transferor;

(ii) is in compliance with Title 33, chapters 30 and 31;

(iii) ensures that the transferee will possess surplus in an amount sufficient to comply with the surplus required under law and provide for the security of the transferee's certificate holders, if any, and policyholders.

(3) In making the determination required under this section, the commissioner may not determine that a conversion transaction is in the public interest unless the nonprofit health entity considered the risks of a conversion transaction, including whether a conversion transaction:

(a) would result in inefficient economies of scale; or

(b) would violate federal or state antitrust laws.

(4) If an agreement for the conversion of a nonprofit health entity requires payment of money, as liquidated damages or otherwise, in the event of a breach of the agreement by the nonprofit health entity, the commissioner shall determine whether and to what extent the payment by the nonprofit health entity is in the public interest.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-718. Deposit of assets. Any public assets distributed pursuant to 50-4-716 as a result of the conversion transaction of a nonprofit health entity approved by the commissioner and the attorney general on or after April 8, 2005, must be distributed as provided in 50-4-720.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-719. For-profit health entity. (1) A corporation that becomes a for-profit health entity under this part may not be considered to have abandoned its corporate status by virtue of a conversion transaction unless the conversion transaction provides specifically to the contrary.

(2) The certificate of authority, agent appointments, licenses, forms, and any other filings in existence at the time of a conversion transaction continue in full force and effect upon a conversion transaction if a corporation at all times remains qualified to engage in business in the state.

(3) All outstanding contracts of a transferor remain in full force and effect and need not be otherwise endorsed unless ordered by the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

50-4-720. Distribution of proceeds — annual report. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the proceeds of a conversion transaction that are public assets must be distributed to an existing or new foundation or other nonprofit organization to be held in a trust that meets the following requirements:

(a) The foundation or nonprofit organization shall operate pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), and regardless of whether the foundation is classified as a private foundation under 26 U.S.C. 509, the foundation or nonprofit organization shall operate in accordance with the restrictions and limitations that apply to private foundations in 26 U.S.C. 4941 through 4945.

(b) The foundation or nonprofit organization must have a mission statement that is as close as possible to the mission of the converting nonprofit health entity.

(c) The foundation or nonprofit organization's assets may not be used to supplant government funds.

(d) The foundation or nonprofit organization may not be an agent or instrumentality of the government.

(e) The foundation or nonprofit organization and its directors, officers, and staff must be and shall remain independent of the parties to the conversion transaction and their affiliates. A person who is an officer, director, or staff member of a nonprofit health entity submitting a conversion plan at the time that the plan is submitted or at the time of the conversion transaction or within 5 years after the conversion may not be an officer, director, or staff member of the foundation. A director, officer, agent, or employee of the nonprofit health entity submitting the plan or the foundation receiving the charitable assets may not benefit directly or indirectly from the transaction. Public officials, elected or appointed, may not serve as an officer, director, or staff member of the foundation or nonprofit organization.

(f) A foundation or nonprofit organization must have or shall establish formal mechanisms to avoid conflicts of interest and to prohibit grants benefiting:

(i) any party to the conversion transaction or members of the board of directors and management of a party to the conversion transaction; or

(ii) the foundation or nonprofit organization's board of trustees, directors, agents, or employees.

(g) Boards of trustees or directors of the foundation or nonprofit organization shall reflect the geographic, ethnic, gender, age, socioeconomic, and other factors that the board considers to represent the diversity of the nonprofit health entity applicant's service area. In addition, trustees or directors must have the following qualifications and qualities:

(i) interest in and concern for the foundation or nonprofit organization and its mission;

(ii) objectivity and impartiality;

(iii) willingness and ability to commit time and thought to the foundation or nonprofit organization's affairs; and

(iv) commitment to the foundation or nonprofit organization as a whole and not to a special interest.

(h) Boards of trustees or directors must include persons with special knowledge, expertise, and skills in investments and asset management, finance, and nonprofit administration.

(2) A foundation or nonprofit organization that receives a distribution of public assets shall submit an annual report to the commissioner and to the attorney general regarding the award of grants and other charitable activities of the entity related to its use of the public assets received.

(3) The annual report submitted under subsection (2) must be made available to the public at the principal office of the foundation or nonprofit organization.

(4) The attorney general shall retain oversight and monitoring authority over the foundation or nonprofit organization that receives the proceeds of a proposed conversion transaction.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the proceeds of a conversion transaction that are public assets of a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation in which all of the members are nonprofit public benefit corporations may be distributed to the member nonprofit public benefit corporations if the articles of incorporation of the nonprofit mutual benefit corporation provide for that distribution.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 214, L. 2005.

Part 8
Community Health Center Support

50-4-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Community Health Center Support Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 2007.

50-4-802. Legislative intent and purpose. The legislature recognizes that the large number of uninsured and underinsured Montanans has a significant long-term human and economic impact on families, health care providers, and the state of Montana. It is the intent of the legislature through this part to enhance access to primary care and preventive care for Montana residents by strengthening and supporting Montana's community health centers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 2007.

50-4-803. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 22.

(2) "Federally qualified community health center" means a facility providing primary and preventive medical, dental, mental health, and substance abuse services to medically underserved, disadvantaged, or hard-to-reach populations on a sliding-scale fee basis, operating under federal regulations, and receiving federal funds under the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 254b.

(3) "Federally qualified health center look-alike" means a facility that meets all of the expectations established for the federally funded community health center program but does not receive federal operating funds under the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 254b.

(4) "Preventive care" means comprehensive care that emphasizes prevention, early detection, and early treatment of conditions, including but not limited to routine physical examinations, health screenings, immunizations, and health education.

(5) "Primary care" means the type of medical care that provides a patient with a broad spectrum of preventive and curative health care services over a long period of time and that coordinates all of the care a patient receives.

(6) "Section 330 funds" means the federal funds commonly known by that name and awarded by the health resources and services administration of the U.S. department of health and human services to health centers that qualify for funding under the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 254b.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 436, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

50-4-804. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this part.

(2) The rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) eligibility requirements for entities applying for grants;

(b) criteria for awarding grants; and

(c) reporting procedures for grant recipients.

(3) The rules establishing eligibility for state grants must reflect the national model established for federally qualified community health centers receiving section 330 funds as provided by the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 254b.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 436, L. 2007.

50-4-805. Program expenditures. (1) Subject to appropriation by the legislature, the department shall provide competitive grants in accordance with 50-4-806 and this section to community or tribal boards operating as a nonprofit entity in accordance with the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 254b, to increase access to primary care and preventive health services for uninsured, underinsured, low-income, or underserved Montanans.

(2) Grants must be made each year to accomplish any of the following goals:

(a) to create and support new nonfederally funded community health centers with state funding for a maximum of 6 years or until federal funds are granted. Successful applicants for the state grants shall also apply for federally qualified health center look-alike status and federal community health center grants at the first available opportunity.

(b) to expand the medical, mental health, or dental services offered by existing federally qualified community health centers or other facilities that have received federally qualified health center look-alike status; and

(c) to provide one-time grants for capital expenditures to existing federally qualified community health centers and facilities with federally qualified health center look-alike status.

(3) The department shall contract with an entity that is able to:

(a) provide technical assistance to new and existing federally qualified community health centers in their efforts to apply for federal funds;

(b) assist new and existing centers in their efforts to expand services; and

(c) collect standardized data on the provision of services to low-income and uninsured Montanans.

(4) The department shall require the contractor to provide an annual report on the services it has provided, the data it has collected, and the status of applications for federal community health center funding.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 436, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

50-4-806. Grants — application process — obligation of communities. (1) In order to receive funds under 50-4-805, a community or tribal board shall submit a proposal to the department for:

(a) increasing access to health care services by:

(i) creating new primary care and preventive care services; and

(ii) developing sliding scale charge and billing systems; or

(b) expanding existing services by:

(i) increasing medical, dental, or mental health capacity;

(ii) purchasing equipment; or

(iii) renovating clinic facilities.

(2) A proposal funded under this part must ensure the board's commitment to attract federal funds for primary care services.

(3) Entities receiving a state grant to start up or expand services shall also seek section 330 funds for those services and may not receive state funding after federal funds are acquired.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 436, L. 2007.

50-4-807 through 50-4-809 reserved.

50-4-810. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 436, L. 2007.

50-4-811. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 436, L. 2007.**

50-4-812 through 50-4-814 reserved.

50-4-815. Community health center account. (1) There is a community health center account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department to provide grants for community health centers.

(2) Money appropriated by the legislature for community health centers must be deposited into the account.

(3) Money must be allocated from the account in accordance with the procedures outlined in 50-4-805 and 50-4-806.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 436, L. 2007.**

Part 9
Montana Health Care Freedom Act

50-4-901. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Health Care Freedom Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 2011.**

50-4-902. Health insurance purchase mandate prohibited — exceptions. (1) The state or federal government may not:

(a) mandate or require a person or entity to purchase health insurance coverage as defined in 33-22-140; or

(b) impose a penalty, tax, fee, or fine of any type if a person or entity declines to purchase health insurance coverage.

(2) This section does not apply to a requirement to purchase health insurance coverage that is imposed by:

(a) a court when an individual or entity is a named party in a judicial dispute;

(b) the department of public health and human services as part of a child support enforcement action; or

(c) the Montana university system as a requirement for students.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 2011.**

Part 10
Youth Health Protection Act

Part Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This part is effective October 1, 2023.

50-4-1001. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Youth Health Protection Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 306, L. 2023.**

50-4-1002. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to enhance the protection of minors and their families, pursuant to Article II, section 15, of the Montana constitution, from any form of pressure to receive harmful, experimental puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and to undergo irreversible, life-altering surgical procedures prior to attaining the age of majority.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 306, L. 2023.**

50-4-1003. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Female" means a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XX chromosomes and produces or would produce relatively large, relatively immobile gametes, or eggs, during her life cycle and has a reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is female for the purposes of this part.

(2) "Gender" means the psychological, behavioral, social, and cultural aspects of being male or female. An individual's gender may or may not align with the individual's sex.

(3) "Gender dysphoria" is the condition defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.

(4) "Health care professional" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of the practice of the person's profession.

(5) "Male" means a member of the human species who, under normal development, has XY chromosomes and produces or would produce small, mobile gametes, or sperm, during his life cycle and has a reproductive and endocrine system oriented around the production of those gametes. An individual who would otherwise fall within this definition, but for a biological or genetic condition, is male for purposes of this part.

(6) "Mental health professional" means a person who is licensed to diagnose and treat mental health conditions in this state.

(7) "Minor" means an individual under 18 years of age.

(8) "Physician" means a person who is licensed to practice medicine in this state.

(9) "Sex" means the organization of body parts and gametes for reproduction in human beings and other organisms. In human beings, there are exactly two sexes, male and female, with two corresponding types of gametes. The sexes are determined by the biological and genetic indication of male or female, including sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex chromosomes, gonads, and nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth, without regard to an individual's psychological, behavioral, social, cultural, chosen, or subjective experience of gender.

(10) "Social transitioning" means acts other than pharmaceutical or surgical interventions that are offered as treatment to a minor for the purpose of the minor presenting as the opposite sex or an identity other than the minor's sex, including the changing of a minor's preferred pronouns or dress and the recommendation to wear clothing or devices, such as binders, for the purpose of concealing a minor's secondary sex characteristics.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 306, L. 2023.

50-4-1004. Prohibitions. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), a person may not knowingly provide the following medical treatments to a female minor to address the minor's perception that her gender or sex is not female:

(i) surgical procedures, including a vaginectomy, hysterectomy, oophorectomy, ovariectomy, reconstruction of the urethra, metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, scrotoplasty, implantation of erection or testicular protheses, subcutaneous mastectomy, voice surgery, or pectoral implants;

(ii) supraphysiologic doses of testosterone or other androgens; or

(iii) puberty blockers such as GnRH agonists or other synthetic drugs that suppress the production of estrogen and progesterone to delay or suppress pubertal development in female minors.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), a person may not knowingly provide the following medical treatments to a male minor to address the minor's perception that his gender or sex is not male:

(i) surgical procedures, including a penectomy, orchiectomy, vaginoplasty, clitoroplasty, vulvoplasty, augmentation mammoplasty, facial feminization surgery, voice surgery, thyroid cartilage reduction, or gluteal augmentation;

(ii) supraphysiologic doses of estrogen; or

(iii) puberty blockers such as GnRH agonists or other synthetic drugs that suppress the production of testosterone or delay or suppress pubertal development in male minors.

(c) The medical treatments listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) are prohibited only when knowingly provided to address a female minor's perception that her gender or sex is not female or a male minor's perception that his gender or sex is not male. Subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply for other purposes, including:

(i) treatment for a person born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development, including:

(A) a person born with external biological sex characteristics that are irresolvably ambiguous, including an individual born with 46 XX chromosomes with virilization, 46 XY chromosomes with undervirilization, or having both ovarian and testicular tissue; and

(B) a person whom a physician has otherwise diagnosed with a disorder of sexual development in which the physician has determined through genetic or biochemical testing that the person does not have normal sex chromosome structure, sex steroid hormone production, or sex steroid hormone action for a male or female; and

(ii) treatment of any infection, injury, disease, or disorder that has been caused or exacerbated by a medical treatment listed in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b), whether or not the medical treatment was performed in accordance with state and federal law and whether or not funding for the medical treatment is permissible under state and federal law.

(2) If a health care professional or physician violates subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b):

(a) the health care professional or physician has engaged in unprofessional conduct and is subject to discipline by the appropriate licensing entity or disciplinary review board with competent jurisdiction in this state. That discipline must include suspension of the ability to administer health care or practice medicine for at least 1 year.

(b) parents or guardians of the minor subject to the violation have a private cause of action for damages and equitable relief as the court may determine is justified. The court may also award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to a prevailing party.

(3) Public funds may not be directly or indirectly used, granted, paid, or distributed to any individual, entity, or organization for the purposes of providing the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(4) Any individual or entity that receives state funds to pay for or subsidize the treatment of minors for psychological conditions, including gender dysphoria, may not use state funds to promote or advocate the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(5) Any amount paid by an individual or entity during a tax year for the provision of the procedures described in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) is not tax deductible under state law.

(6) The Montana medicaid and children's health insurance programs may not reimburse or provide coverage for the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(7) Except to the extent required by the first amendment to the United States constitution, state property, facilities, or buildings may not be knowingly used to promote or advocate the use of social transitioning or the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(8) A health care professional or physician employed by the state or a county or local government may not, while engaged in the official duties of employment, knowingly provide the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(9) State property, facilities, or buildings may not knowingly be used to provide the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(10) A state employee whose official duties include the care of minors may not, while engaged in those official duties, knowingly provide or promote the medical treatments prohibited in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b).

(11) The attorney general may bring an action to enforce compliance with this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 306, L. 2023.

50-4-1005. Private cause of action for subsequent harm. (1) Any health care professional or physician who provides the medical treatments prohibited in 50-4-1004(1)(a) or (1)(b) is strictly liable to that person if the medical treatment or the after-effects of the medical treatment result in any injury, including physical, psychological, emotional, or physiological harms, within the next 25 years.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person who suffers an injury described in subsection (1) or the person's legal guardian or estate may bring a civil action with respect to the injury or for any violation of 50-4-1004 within 4 years from the time of discovery by the injured party of both the injury and the causal relationship between the medical treatment and the injury against the offending health care professional or physician in a court of competent jurisdiction for:

(a) declaratory or injunctive relief;

(b) compensatory damages, including but not limited to pain and suffering, loss of reputation, loss of income, and loss of consortium, including the loss of expectation of sharing parenthood;

(c) punitive damages;

(d) any other appropriate relief; and

(e) attorney fees and costs.

(3) (a) If, at the time the person subjected to medical treatment discovers the injury and the causal relationship between the medical treatment and the injury, the person is under legal disability, the limitation period in subsection (2) does not begin to run until the removal of the disability.

(b) The limitation period in subsection (2) does not run during a time period when the individual is subject to threats, intimidation, manipulation, fraudulent concealment, or fraud perpetrated by the health care professional or physician who provided the medical treatment described in subsection (1) or by any person acting in the interest of the health care professional or physician.

(4) A health care professional or physician may not be indemnified for potential liability under this section.

(5) The attorney general may bring an action to enforce compliance with this section.

(6) This section does not deny, impair, or otherwise affect any right or authority of the attorney general, the state, or any agency, officer, or employee of the state, acting under any law other than this section, to institute or intervene in any proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 306, L. 2023.

50-4-1006. Prohibited insurance coverage. A professional liability insurance policy issued to a health care professional or physician may not include coverage for damages assessed against the health care professional or physician who provides any medical treatment prohibited in 50-4-1004(1)(a) or (1)(b).

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 306, L. 2023.

Part 11
Protection for Right of Conscience

Part Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 12, Ch. 376, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to insurance policies issued on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective October 1, 2023.

50-4-1101. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Conscience" means the ethical, moral, or religious beliefs or principles held by a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer.

(b) With respect to institutional or corporate persons, as opposed to individual persons, the term is determined by reference to that entity or body's governing documents, including but not limited to published ethical, moral, or religious guidelines or directives, mission statements, constitutions, articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, or regulations.

(2) (a) "Discrimination" means an adverse action taken against, or a threat of adverse action communicated to, a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer as a result of the medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer's refusal to participate in a health care service on the basis of conscience, including but not limited to termination of employment, transfer from current position, demotion from current position, adverse administrative action, reassignment to a different shift or job title, increased administrative duties, denial of staff privileges, denial of board certification, loss of career specialty, reduction of wages, benefits, or privileges, refusal to award a grant, contract, or other program, refusal to provide residency training opportunities, denial, deprivation, or disqualification of licensure, withholding or disqualifying from financial aid and other assistance, impediment of the creation or improvement of a health care institution or health care payer, impediment of the acquisition or merger of a health care institution or health care payer, the threat of any of the preceding actions, or any other penalty, disciplinary, or retaliatory action, whether executed or threatened.

(b) The term does not include the negotiation or purchase of insurance by a nongovernment entity.

(3) (a) "Health care institution" means a public or private hospital, outpatient center for primary care, medical center, physician organization, professional association, outpatient center for surgical services, private physician's office, pharmacy, long-term care facility, medical school, nursing school, medical training facility, or any other entity or location in which health care services are performed.

(b) The term includes but is not limited to organizations, corporations, partnerships, associations, agencies, networks, sole proprietorships, or joint ventures.

(4) "Health care payer" means an employer, health plan, health maintenance organization, insurance company, management services organization, or another entity that pays for or arranges for payment for a health care service, in whole or in part.

(5) "Health care service" means medical research or medical care provided to a patient at any time during the patient's course of treatment, including but not limited to initial examination, testing, diagnosis, referral, dispensing or administration of a drug, medication, or device, psychological therapy or counseling, research, prognosis, therapy, record-making procedures, notes related to treatment, set up, or performance of a surgery or procedure, or any other care or service performed or provided by a medical practitioner.

(6) (a) "Medical practitioner" means a person who is or may be asked to participate in a health care service.

(b) The term includes but is not limited to physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nurse aides, allied health professionals, medical assistants, hospital employees, employees of an outpatient center for primary care, outpatient center for surgical services, or long-term care facility, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy employees, medical school faculty and students, nursing school faculty and students, psychology and counseling faculty and students, medical researchers, laboratory technicians, counselors, social workers, or any other person who facilitates or participates in a health care service.

(7) "Participate in a health care service" means to provide, perform, assist with, facilitate, refer for, counsel for, advise with regard to, admit for the purposes of providing, or take part in any way in providing a health care service.

(8) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, or corporations.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1102. Right of conscience for health care institutions and health care payers — immunity — exceptions. (1) (a) A health care institution or health care payer may not be required to participate in or pay for a health care service that violates the health care institution's or health care payer's conscience, including by permitting the use of its facilities.

(b) An insurance company shall list any health care service that it may refuse to pay for on the basis of conscience in the applicable policy.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (5), refusal to participate in or pay for a health care service under this section may not give rise to liability of the health care institution or health care payer for damages allegedly arising from the refusal or be the basis for any discrimination, discipline, or other recriminatory action against the health care institution, health care payer, or any personnel, agent, or governing board.

(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to relieve a health care institution of the requirement to provide emergency medical treatment to all patients set forth in 42 U.S.C. 1395dd.

(4) This section is supplemental to and may not be construed as modifying or limiting the rights and remedies provided in Title 50, chapter 5, part 5, and 50-20-111.

(5) The immunity provisions of this section do not apply to a health care institution or health care payer owned or operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1103. Right of conscience for medical practitioners — affirmative consent for abortion services — immunity — exceptions. (1) A medical practitioner has the right not to participate in a health care service that violates the medical practitioner's conscience. A health care institution may not be held liable for the exercise of conscience not to participate in a health care service by a medical practitioner employed, contracted, or granted admitting privileges by the health care institution.

(2) A health care institution may require the exercise of conscience as a basis for not participating in a health care service to be made in writing and signed by the medical practitioner objecting. A writing made under this subsection may refer only generally to the grounds of "conscience".

(3) A medical practitioner's refusal to participate in a health care service based on an exercise of conscience may not be a consideration with respect to staff privileges of a health care institution or a basis for discrimination, discipline, or other recriminatory action against the medical practitioner.

(4) A medical practitioner may not be scheduled for, assigned, or requested to directly or indirectly perform, facilitate, refer for, or participate in an abortion unless the medical practitioner first affirmatively consents in writing as provided in 50-20-111.

(5) Except as provided under Article II, section 18, of the Montana constitution, a medical practitioner may not be held liable for damages allegedly arising from the exercise of conscience not to participate in a health care service.

(6) This section is supplemental to and may not be construed as modifying or limiting the rights and remedies provided in Title 50, chapter 5, part 5, and 50-20-111.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1104. Exercise of conscience not grounds for loss of privileges, immunities, or public benefits. The exercise of conscience not to participate in a health care service by a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer may not be grounds for loss of any privileges or immunities or for the loss of any public benefits. This section is supplemental to and may not be construed as modifying or limiting the rights and remedies provided in Title 50, chapter 5, part 5, and 50-20-111.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1105. Whistleblower protections. (1) A medical practitioner or health care institution may not be discriminated against because the medical practitioner or health care institution:

(a) provides, causes to be provided, or intends to provide or cause to be provided information relating to a suspected violation of this part to the medical practitioner or health care institution's employer, the attorney general, any agency charged with protecting health care rights of conscience, the United States department of health and human services, the United States office for civil rights, or any other federal agency charged with protecting health care rights of conscience;

(b) testifies or intends to testify in a proceeding concerning a violation of this part; or

(c) assists or participates, or intends to assist or participate, in a proceeding.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), it is unlawful to discriminate against a medical practitioner because the medical practitioner discloses information that the medical practitioner reasonably believes evinces:

(a) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation;

(b) a violation of any standard of care or ethical guidelines for the provision of any health care service; or

(c) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, practices or methods of treatment that may put patient health at risk, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to exempt a person from the requirements of Title 50, chapter 16, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., or any other applicable confidentiality and patient privacy requirements.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1106. Free speech protections — notification of complaints — penalty. (1) The department of public health and human services, a licensing board operating under Title 37, or any other entity that grants licensure or certification may not reprimand, sanction, or revoke or threaten to revoke a license, certificate, or registration of a medical practitioner who is licensed or certified by the department or board for engaging in speech or expressive activity protected under the first amendment to the U.S. constitution, unless the department or board demonstrates beyond a reasonable doubt that the medical practitioner's speech was the direct cause of physical harm to a person with whom the medical practitioner had a practitioner-patient relationship within the 3 years immediately preceding the incident of physical harm.

(2) (a) Within 14 days of receiving a complaint that may result in revocation of a medical practitioner's license, the department, licensing board, or other licensing or certification entity shall provide the medical practitioner with a copy of the complaint.

(b) If the department, licensing board, or other licensing or certification entity fails to provide the complaint within 14 days of receipt, the department or licensing board shall pay the medical practitioner an administrative penalty of $500 for each week of noncompliance.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

50-4-1107. Unlawful interference. (1) It is unlawful to interfere or attempt to interfere with the right not to participate in a health care service or the whistleblower and free speech rights and protections authorized by this part, whether by duress, coercion, or any other means.

(2) A medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer injured by unlawful interference is entitled to:

(a) injunctive relief, when appropriate, including but not limited to reinstatement of a medical practitioner to the medical practitioner's previous position, reinstatement of board certification, and relicensure of a health care institution or health care payer;

(b) monetary damages for injuries suffered; and

(c) reasonable costs and attorney fees.

(3) This section is supplemental to and may not be construed as modifying or limiting the rights and remedies provided in Title 50, chapter 5, part 5, and 50-20-111.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

CHAPTER 5
HOSPITALS AND RELATED FACILITIES

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Chapter Cross-References

Limits on liability of health care provider in emergency situations, 27-1-734.

Part 1
General Provisions

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Medical services and boarding homes for the aged, Title 7, ch. 34.
Assignment of right to periodic installments for certain future damages, 25-9-405.
Montana Elder and Persons With Developmental Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act, Title 52, ch. 3, part 8.
Health care services, Title 53, ch. 6.
Community-based nursing homes — Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, Title 53, ch. 21, part 4.
Health facility development, Title 90, ch. 7.

50-5-101. Definitions. As used in parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Accreditation" means a designation of approval.

(2) "Activities of daily living" means tasks usually performed in the course of a normal day in a resident's life that include eating, walking, mobility, dressing, grooming, bathing, toileting, and transferring.

(3) "Adult day-care center" means a facility, freestanding or connected to another health care facility, that provides adults, on a regularly scheduled basis, with the care necessary to meet the needs of daily living but that does not provide overnight care.

(4) (a) "Adult foster care home" means a private home or other facility that offers, except as provided in 50-5-216, only light personal care or custodial care to four or fewer disabled adults or aged persons who are not related to the owner or manager of the home by blood, marriage, or adoption or who are not under the full guardianship of the owner or manager.

(b) As used in this subsection (4), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Aged person" means a person as defined by department rule as aged.

(ii) "Custodial care" means providing a sheltered, family-type setting for an aged person or disabled adult so as to provide for the person's basic needs of food and shelter and to ensure that a specific person is available to meet those basic needs.

(iii) "Disabled adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or older and who is defined by department rule as disabled.

(iv) (A) "Light personal care" means assisting the aged person or disabled adult in accomplishing such personal hygiene tasks as bathing, dressing, and hair grooming and supervision of prescriptive medicine administration.

(B) The term does not include the administration of prescriptive medications.

(5) "Affected person" means an applicant for a certificate of need, a long-term care facility located in the geographic area affected by the application, an agency that establishes rates for long-term care facilities, or a third-party payer who reimburses long-term care facilities in the area affected by the proposal.

(6) "Assisted living facility" means a congregate residential setting that provides or coordinates personal care, 24-hour supervision and assistance, both scheduled and unscheduled, and activities and health-related services.

(7) "Capital expenditure" means:

(a) an expenditure made by or on behalf of a long-term care facility that, under generally accepted accounting principles, is not properly chargeable as an expense of operation and maintenance; or

(b) a lease, donation, or comparable arrangement that would be a capital expenditure if money or any other property of value had changed hands.

(8) "Certificate of need" means a written authorization by the department for a person to proceed with a proposal subject to 50-5-301.

(9) "Chemical dependency facility" means a facility whose function is the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of the use of any chemical substance, including alcohol, that creates behavioral or health problems and endangers the health, interpersonal relationships, or economic function of an individual or the public health, welfare, or safety.

(10) "Clinical laboratory" means a facility for the microbiological, serological, chemical, hematological, radiobioassay, cytological, immunohematological, pathological, or other examination of materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a disease or assessment of a medical condition.

(11) "Comparative review" means a joint review of two or more certificate of need applications that are determined by the department to be competitive in that the granting of a certificate of need to one of the applicants would substantially prejudice the department's review of the other applications.

(12) "Congregate" means the provision of group services designed especially for elderly or disabled persons who require supportive services and housing.

(13) "Construction" means the physical erection of a new health care facility and any stage of the physical erection, including groundbreaking, or remodeling, replacement, or renovation of:

(a) an existing health care facility; or

(b) a long-term care facility as defined in 50-5-301.

(14) "Critical access hospital" means a facility that is located in a rural area, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(2)(D), and that has been designated by the department as a critical access hospital pursuant to 50-5-233.

(15) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(16) "Eating disorder center" means a facility that specializes in the treatment of eating disorders.

(17) "End-stage renal dialysis facility" means a facility that specializes in the treatment of kidney diseases and includes freestanding hemodialysis units.

(18) "Federal acts" means federal statutes for the construction of health care facilities.

(19) "Governmental unit" means the state, a state agency, a county, municipality, or political subdivision of the state, or an agency of a political subdivision.

(20) (a) "Health care facility" or "facility" means all or a portion of an institution, building, or agency, private or public, excluding federal facilities, whether organized for profit or not, that is used, operated, or designed to provide health services, medical treatment, or nursing, rehabilitative, or preventive care to any individual. The term includes abortion clinics as defined in 50-20-901, chemical dependency facilities, critical access hospitals, eating disorder centers, end-stage renal dialysis facilities, home health agencies, home infusion therapy agencies, hospices, hospitals, infirmaries, long-term care facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, medical assistance facilities, mental health centers, outpatient

centers for primary care, outpatient centers for surgical services, rehabilitation facilities, residential care facilities, residential treatment facilities, and rural emergency hospitals.

(b) The term does not include offices of private physicians, dentists, or other physical or mental health care workers regulated under Title 37, including licensed addiction counselors.

(21) "Home health agency" means a public agency or private organization or subdivision of the agency or organization that is engaged in providing home health services to individuals in the places where they live. Home health services must include the services of a licensed registered nurse and at least one other therapeutic service and may include additional support services.

(22) "Home infusion therapy agency" means a health care facility that provides home infusion therapy services.

(23) "Home infusion therapy services" means the preparation, administration, or furnishing of parenteral medications or parenteral or enteral nutritional services to an individual in that individual's residence. The services include an educational component for the patient, the patient's caregiver, or the patient's family member.

(24) "Hospice" means a coordinated program of home and inpatient health care that provides or coordinates palliative and supportive care to meet the needs of a terminally ill patient and the patient's family arising out of physical, psychological, spiritual, social, and economic stresses experienced during the final stages of illness and dying and that includes formal bereavement programs as an essential component. The term includes:

(a) an inpatient hospice facility, which is a facility managed directly by a medicare-certified hospice that meets all medicare certification regulations for freestanding inpatient hospice facilities; and

(b) a residential hospice facility, which is a facility managed directly by a licensed hospice program that can house three or more hospice patients.

(25) (a) "Hospital" means a facility providing, by or under the supervision of licensed physicians, services for medical diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and care of injured, disabled, or sick individuals. Except as otherwise provided by law, services provided must include medical personnel available to provide emergency care onsite 24 hours a day and may include any other service allowed by state licensing authority. A hospital has an organized medical staff that is on call and available within 20 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and provides 24-hour nursing care by licensed registered nurses. The term includes:

(i) hospitals specializing in providing health services for psychiatric, developmentally disabled, and tubercular patients; and

(ii) specialty hospitals.

(b) The term does not include critical access hospitals.

(c) The emergency care requirement for a hospital that specializes in providing health services for psychiatric, developmentally disabled, or tubercular patients is satisfied if the emergency care is provided within the scope of the specialized services provided by the hospital and by providing 24-hour nursing care by licensed registered nurses.

(26) "Infirmary" means a facility located in a university, college, government institution, or industry for the treatment of the sick or injured, with the following subdefinitions:

(a) an "infirmary—A" provides outpatient and inpatient care;

(b) an "infirmary—B" provides outpatient care only.

(27) (a) "Intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled" means a facility or part of a facility that provides intermediate developmental disability care for two or more persons.

(b) The term does not include community homes for persons with developmental disabilities that are licensed under 53-20-305 or community homes for persons with severe disabilities that are licensed under 52-4-203.

(28) "Intermediate developmental disability care" means the provision of intermediate nursing care services, health-related services, and social services for persons with a developmental disability, as defined in 53-20-102, or for persons with related problems.

(29) "Intermediate nursing care" means the provision of nursing care services, health-related services, and social services under the supervision of a licensed nurse to patients not requiring 24-hour nursing care.

(30) "Licensed health care professional" means a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse who is practicing within the scope of the license issued by the department of labor and industry.

(31) (a) "Long-term care facility" means a facility or part of a facility that provides skilled nursing care, residential care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate developmental disability care to a total of two or more individuals or that provides personal care.

(b) The term does not include community homes for persons with developmental disabilities licensed under 53-20-305; community homes for persons with severe disabilities, licensed under 52-4-203; youth care facilities, licensed under 52-2-622; hotels, motels, boardinghouses, roominghouses, or similar accommodations providing for transients, students, or individuals who do not require institutional health care; or correctional facilities operating under the authority of the department of corrections.

(32) "Medical assistance facility" means a facility that meets both of the following:

(a) provides inpatient care to ill or injured individuals before their transportation to a hospital or that provides inpatient medical care to individuals needing that care for a period of no longer than 96 hours unless a longer period is required because transfer to a hospital is precluded because of inclement weather or emergency conditions. The department or its designee may, upon request, waive the 96-hour restriction retroactively and on a case-by-case basis if the individual's attending physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner determines that the transfer is medically inappropriate and would jeopardize the health and safety of the individual.

(b) either is located in a county with fewer than six residents a square mile or is located more than 35 road miles from the nearest hospital.

(33) "Mental health center" means a facility providing services for the prevention or diagnosis of mental illness, the care and treatment of mentally ill patients, the rehabilitation of mentally ill individuals, or any combination of these services.

(34) "Nonprofit health care facility" means a health care facility owned or operated by one or more nonprofit corporations or associations.

(35) "Offer" means the representation by a health care facility that it can provide specific health services.

(36) (a) "Outdoor behavioral program" means a program that provides treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention for behavioral problems that endanger the health, interpersonal relationships, or educational functions of a youth and that:

(i) serves either adjudicated or nonadjudicated youth;

(ii) charges a fee for its services; and

(iii) provides all or part of its services in the outdoors.

(b) "Outdoor behavioral program" does not include recreational programs such as boy scouts, girl scouts, 4-H clubs, or other similar organizations.

(37) "Outpatient center for primary care" means a facility that provides, under the direction of a licensed physician, either diagnosis or treatment, or both, to ambulatory patients and that is not an outpatient center for surgical services.

(38) "Outpatient center for surgical services" means a clinic, infirmary, or other institution or organization that is specifically designed and operated to provide surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization and that may include recovery care beds.

(39) "Patient" means an individual obtaining services, including skilled nursing care, from a health care facility.

(40) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, organization, agency, institution, corporation, trust, estate, or governmental unit, whether organized for profit or not.

(41) "Personal care" means the provision of services and care for residents who need some assistance in performing the activities of daily living.

(42) "Practitioner" means an individual licensed by the department of labor and industry who has assessment, admission, and prescription authority.

(43) "Recovery care bed" means, except as provided in 50-5-235, a bed occupied for less than 24 hours by a patient recovering from surgery or other treatment.

(44) "Rehabilitation facility" means a facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled individuals by providing comprehensive medical evaluations and services, psychological and social services, or vocational evaluation and training

or any combination of these services and in which the major portion of the services is furnished within the facility.

(45) "Resident" means an individual who is in a long-term care facility or in a residential care facility.

(46) "Residential care facility" means an adult day-care center, an adult foster care home, an assisted living facility, or a retirement home.

(47) "Residential psychiatric care" means active psychiatric treatment provided in a residential treatment facility to psychiatrically impaired individuals with persistent patterns of emotional, psychological, or behavioral dysfunction of such severity as to require 24-hour supervised care to adequately treat or remedy the individual's condition. Residential psychiatric care must be individualized and designed to achieve the patient's discharge to less restrictive levels of care at the earliest possible time.

(48) "Residential treatment facility" means a facility operated for the primary purpose of providing residential psychiatric care to individuals under 21 years of age.

(49) "Retirement home" means a building or buildings in which separate living accommodations are rented or leased to individuals who use those accommodations as their primary residence.

(50) "Rural emergency hospital" means a facility defined in 42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(2) that is designated by the department as a rural emergency hospital in accordance with 50-5-234.

(51) "Skilled nursing care" means the provision of nursing care services, health-related services, and social services under the supervision of a licensed registered nurse on a 24-hour basis.

(52) (a) "Specialty hospital" means a subclass of hospital that is exclusively engaged in the diagnosis, care, or treatment of one or more of the following categories:

(i) patients with a cardiac condition;

(ii) patients with an orthopedic condition;

(iii) patients undergoing a surgical procedure; or

(iv) patients treated for cancer-related diseases and receiving oncology services.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (52), a specialty hospital may provide other services for medical diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and care of injured, disabled, or sick individuals as otherwise provided by law if the care encompasses 35% or less of the hospital services.

(c) The term "specialty hospital" does not include:

(i) psychiatric hospitals;

(ii) rehabilitation hospitals;

(iii) children's hospitals;

(iv) long-term care hospitals; or

(v) critical access hospitals.

(53) "State long-term care facilities plan" means the plan prepared by the department to project the need for long-term care facilities within Montana and approved by the governor and a statewide health coordinating council appointed by the director of the department.

(54) "Swing bed" means a bed approved pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395tt to be used to provide either acute care or extended skilled nursing care to a patient.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 159, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(1), 69-5201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1983; amd. Secs. 1, 13, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 641, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 616, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 764, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 250, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 188, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 98, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 192, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 345, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 339, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 492, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 131, L. 2023, deleted definitions of accreditation association for ambulatory health care, college of American pathologists, commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities, council on accreditation, DNV healthcare, inc., healthcare facilities accreditation program, and the joint commission (see sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 2023, for former text); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 492, L. 2023, in definition of health care facility in (a) near beginning of second sentence inserted "abortion clinics as defined in 50-20-901". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 602, L. 2023, in definition of health care facility in (a) at end inserted "and rural emergency hospitals"; inserted definition of rural emergency hospital; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

50-5-102. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 160, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5202.

50-5-103. Rules and standards — accreditation. (1) The department shall adopt rules and minimum standards for implementation of parts 1 and 2.

(2) Any facility covered by this chapter shall comply with the state and federal requirements relating to construction, equipment, and fire and life safety.

(3) The department shall extend a reasonable time for compliance with rules for parts 1 and 2 upon adoption.

(4) (a) Any health care facility located in this state that furnishes to the department the written evidence required by the department, including the recommendation for future compliance statements, of its accreditation granted by an accrediting entity approved by the U.S. centers for medicare and medicaid services is eligible for licensure in the state for the accreditation period and may not be subjected to an inspection by the department for purposes of the licensing process.

(b) The department may, in addition to its inspection authority in 50-5-116, inspect any licensed health care facility to answer specific complaints made in writing by any person against the facility when the complaints pertain to licensing requirements. Inspection by the department upon a specific complaint made in writing pertaining to licensing requirements is limited to the specific area or condition of the health care facility to which the complaint pertains.

History: En. Sec. 171, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 448, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5213; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 432, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 188, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.
Fire protection equipment, Title 50, ch. 39.
Building construction standards, Title 50, ch. 60.

50-5-104. Certain exemptions for spiritual healing institution. Parts 1 through 3 and rules and standards adopted by the department may not authorize the supervision, regulation, or control of care or treatment of persons in any home or institution conducted for those who rely upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any well-recognized church or religious denomination. However, a license is required and the minimum standards referred to in 50-5-103(2) apply.

History: En. Sec. 175, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5217(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

50-5-105. Discrimination prohibited. (1) All phases of the operation of a health care facility must be without discrimination against anyone on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, as defined in 1-1-201, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or political ideas.

(2) (a) A health care facility may not refuse to admit a person to the facility solely because the person has an HIV-related condition.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (2), the following definitions apply:

(i) "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus identified as the causative agent of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and includes all HIV and HIV-related viruses that damage the cellular branch of the human immune or neurological system and leave the infected person immunodeficient or neurologically impaired.

(ii) "HIV-related condition" means any medical condition resulting from an HIV infection, including but not limited to seropositivity for HIV.

(3) A person who operates a facility may not discriminate among the patients of licensed physicians. The free and confidential professional relationship between a licensed physician and patient must continue and remain unaffected.

(4) Except for a hospital that employs its medical staff, a hospital considering an application for staff membership or granting privileges within the scope of the applicant's license may not deny the application or privileges because the applicant is licensed under Title 37, chapter 6.

History: En. Sec. 175, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5217(1); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 224, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 351, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 29, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Individual dignity, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.
Freedom from discrimination provided, 49-1-102.
Discrimination in public accommodations prohibited, 49-2-304.
Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-5-106. Records and reports required of health care facilities — confidentiality. (1) Health care facilities shall keep records and provide the records at the request of the department.

(2) Every licensed health care facility shall submit an annual report for the preceding calendar year to the department.

(3) Every hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency hospital that is operating as a nonprofit health care facility under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), shall submit to the department:

(a) a copy of internal revenue service form 990 schedule H and associated worksheets; and

(b) both a financial assistance policy and a community benefit plan for the current calendar year.

(4) Reports required under this section must be provided to the department within 30 days of filing the required forms with the internal revenue service annually.

(5) Information received by the department through reports, inspections, or provisions of parts 1 and 2 may not be disclosed in a way that would identify patients. A department employee who discloses information that would identify a patient must be dismissed from employment and subject to the provisions of 45-7-401 and 50-16-551, if applicable, unless the disclosure was authorized as permitted by law.

(6) Information and statistical reports from health care facilities that are considered necessary by the department for health planning and resource development activities must be made available to the public and the health planning agencies within the state. Applications by health care facilities for certificates of need and any information relevant to review of these applications, pursuant to part 3, must be accessible to the public.

History: En. Sec. 176, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5218; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 251, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Transition: Section 5, Ch. 364, L. 2023, provided: "(1) The department of public health and human services may not require the submission of the financial assistance policy and community benefit report required under [this act] until the department has adopted rules specifying the information to be reported.

(2) A hospital financial assistance policy required under [this act] may comply with only federal financial assistance standards until the department of public health and human services has adopted rules specifying state standards for the policy."

Cross-References

Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-5-107. Unlawful use of word nursing. It is unlawful for any facility operating in this state to use the word "nursing" in its name, signs, advertising, etc., unless that facility does in fact provide 24-hour nursing care by licensed nurses.

History: En. 69-5203.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5203.1.

Cross-References

Unfair trade practices, Title 30, ch. 14, part 2.

Nursing, Title 37, ch. 8.

50-5-108. Injunction. The department may bring an action for injunction or other process against any person to:

(1) restrain a facility from engaging in a prohibited activity that is endangering the health, safety, or welfare of any individual under the care of the facility;

(2) enjoin a violation of part 1 or 2 of this chapter, or a violation of a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2; or

(3) require compliance with part 1 or 2 of this chapter or compliance with a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

History: En. Sec. 178, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5220; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.

Injunctive relief procedures, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-5-109. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 179, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5221; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-110. Patient bill of rights. (1) The following rights may be exercised by a patient or, if the patient lacks decisionmaking capacity, is legally incompetent, or is a minor, by a patient's designated surrogate or lay proxy decisionmaker as defined in 50-5-1301:

(a) The patient has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

(b) The patient has the right to and is encouraged to obtain from physicians and other direct caregivers relevant, current, and understandable information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.

(c) Except in emergencies when the patient lacks decisionmaking capacity and the need for treatment is urgent, the patient is entitled to be informed of information related to the specific procedures and treatments that are recommended or planned, the risks involved that may cause harm to the patient, the possible length of recuperation, and the medically reasonable alternatives and their accompanying risks and benefits.

(d) The patient has the right to know the identity of physicians, nurses, and others involved in the patient's care, as well as whether those involved are students, residents, or other trainees

(e) The patient has the right to know the immediate and long-term financial implications of treatment choices, to the extent the costs are known.

(f) (i) The patient has the right to make decisions about the plan of care prior to and during the course of treatment, to refuse a recommended treatment or plan of care, and to be informed of the medical consequences of the decision.

(ii) When the patient refuses a recommended treatment or plan of care, the patient is entitled to other appropriate care and services that the hospital provides or to transfer to another hospital or discharge to home with impunity and without penalty or threat.

(iii) A hospital shall notify patients of any policy that might affect patient choices within the facility.

(g) (i) The patient has the right to have an advance directive, including but not limited to a living will, health care proxy, or health care power of attorney, concerning treatment or designating a surrogate decisionmaker with the expectation that the hospital will honor the intent of the directive. A hospital shall advise a patient of the patient's rights under state law and hospital policy to make informed medical choices, ask if the patient has an advance directive or surrogate decisionmaker, and include that information in the patient's record.

(ii) The patient has the right to timely information about hospital policy that may limit the hospital's ability to implement fully a legally valid advance directive or surrogate decisionmaker.

(h) The patient has the right to have an advocate or support person of the patient's choosing present in clinically appropriate settings.

(i) The patient has the right to visitation privileges that are no more restrictive for nonfamily members than they are for immediate family members and, in an end-of-life situation, has the right to visitation regardless of the patient's diagnosis. If the diagnosis or condition of a person at the end of life requires specific protocols, the hospital shall make accommodations to facilitate visitation in accordance with the protocols and may not eliminate the opportunity for visitation unless allowing visitation would violate federal requirements and result in loss of payment.

(j) The patient has the right to every consideration of privacy.

(k) The patient has the right to review records pertaining to the patient's medical care and to have the information explained or interpreted as necessary.

(l) (i) The patient has the right to expect that, within its capacity and policies, a hospital will make reasonable response to the patient's request for appropriate and medically indicated care and services. The hospital shall provide evaluation, service, or referral as indicated by the urgency of the case.

(ii) When medically appropriate and legally permissible or on request of the patient, the patient may be transferred to another facility that has accepted the patient for transfer. The patient must have the benefit of complete information and explanation concerning the need for, risks and benefits of, and alternatives to the transfer.

(m) The patient has the right to be informed of the existence of business relationships among the hospital, educational institutions, other health care providers, or payers that may influence the patient's care and treatment.

(n) The patient has the right to consent or decline to participate in proposed research studies or human experimentation affecting care and treatment or requiring direct patient involvement and to have the studies fully explained prior to consent. A patient who declines to participate in research or experimentation is entitled to the most effective care that the hospital can otherwise provide.

(o) The patient has the right to expect continuity of care and care coordination between the patient's regular care provider and hospital care and to be informed by physicians and other caregivers of available and realistic patient care options when hospital care is no longer appropriate.

(p) The patient has the right to be informed of available resources for resolving disputes, grievances, and conflicts, including but not limited to ethics committees, patient representatives, and other available avenues.

(2) Health care facilities shall provide annual training to staff on the patient rights provided under this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-5-111. Prohibited activities. It is unlawful to:

(1) operate a facility without a license;

(2) prevent, interfere with, or impede department investigation, department enforcement, department examination of relevant books and records, or activities of the department concerning the preservation of evidence; or

(3) violate any provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or violate a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

50-5-112. Civil penalties. (1) Except as provided in 50-5-121, a person who commits an act prohibited by 50-5-111 is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000 for each day that a facility is in violation of a provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or of a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2. The department or, upon request of the department, the county attorney of the county in which the health care facility in question is located may petition the court to impose the civil penalty. Venue for an action to collect a civil penalty pursuant to this section is in the county in which the facility is located.

(2) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed for an alleged violation under this section, the court shall consider:

(a) the gravity of the violation in terms of the degree of physical or mental harm to a resident or patient;

(b) the degree of harm to the health, safety, rights, security, or welfare of a resident or patient;

(c) the degree of deviation committed by the facility from a requirement imposed by part 1 or 2 of this chapter or by a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2; and

(d) other matters as justice may require.

(3) A penalty collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) In addition to or exclusive of the remedy provided in subsection (1), the department may pursue remedies available for a violation, as provided for in 50-5-108, or any other remedies available to it.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 535, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Transition: Section 5, Ch. 364, L. 2023, provided: "(1) The department of public health and human services may not require the submission of the financial assistance policy and community benefit report required under [this act] until the department has adopted rules specifying the information to be reported.

(2) A hospital financial assistance policy required under [this act] may comply with only federal financial assistance standards until the department of public health and human services has adopted rules specifying state standards for the policy."

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney related to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-5-113. Criminal penalties. (1) A person is guilty of a criminal offense under this section if the person knowingly conceals material information about the operation of the facility or does any of the following and by doing so threatens the health or safety of one or more individuals entrusted to the care of the person:

(a) commits an act prohibited by 50-5-111;

(b) omits material information or makes a false statement or representation in an application, record, report, or other document filed, maintained, or used for compliance with the provisions of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or with rules, license provisions, or orders adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2; or

(c) destroys, alters, conceals, or fails to file or maintain any record, information, or application required to be maintained or filed in compliance with a provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or in compliance with a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

(2) A person convicted under subsection (1) is subject to a fine of not more than $1,000 for the first offense and not more than $2,000 for each subsequent offense for each day that a facility is in violation of a provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or of a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

(3) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed for an alleged violation under this section, the court shall consider:

(a) the gravity of the violation in terms of the degree of physical or mental harm to a resident or patient;

(b) the degree of harm to the health, safety, rights, security, or welfare of a resident or patient;

(c) the degree of deviation committed by the facility from a requirement imposed by part 1 or 2 of this chapter or by a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2; and

(d) other matters as justice may require.

(4) Prosecution under this section does not bar enforcement under any other section of this chapter or pursuit of any other appropriate remedy by the department.

(5) Venue for prosecution pursuant to this section is in the county in which the facility is located.

(6) A penalty collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-5-114. Administrative enforcement — notice — order for corrective action. (1) If the department believes that a violation of a provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or of a rule adopted or a condition or limitation imposed by a license issued pursuant to part 1 or 2 has occurred, it may serve written notice on the alleged violator or the violator's agent personally or by certified mail. The notice must specify the provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or the rule or license condition or limitation alleged to have been violated and the facts alleged to constitute the violation. The notice must inform the alleged violator of the right to a hearing and that the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to the hearing. The notice may include an order to take necessary corrective action, including ceasing new admissions, relocating residents, or ceasing the violation within a reasonable period of time stated in the order. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is received, the person named requests in writing a hearing before the department. On receipt of the request, the department shall schedule a hearing. Until issuance of a contrary decision by the department, a department order concerning corrective action remains effective and enforceable.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the department finds that a violation has occurred, it shall issue an appropriate order for the prevention, abatement, or control of the violation involved or the taking of other corrective action. As appropriate, an order issued as part of a notice or after a hearing may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and the time limits for particular action in preventing, abating, or controlling the violation. If, after a hearing on an order contained in a notice, the department finds that a violation has not occurred or is not occurring, it shall declare the order void.

(3) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted pursuant to this section.

(4) Instead of or in addition to issuing the order provided for in subsection (1), the department may:

(a) require that the alleged violators appear before the department for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice and answer the charges; or

(b) initiate action under any other applicable provisions of part 1 or 2 of this chapter.

(5) Before acting under this section, the department shall attempt to obtain voluntary compliance through a warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

(6) In connection with a hearing held pursuant to this section, the department may and on application by a party shall compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence on behalf of any party.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 252, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Subpoenas and enforcement — compelling testimony, 2-4-104.

50-5-115. Receiverships. (1) If receivership has not already been instituted under medicaid or medicare, upon notice to the facility, the department may file a complaint in district court for receivership under any of the following conditions in addition to applicable conditions listed in 27-20-102:

(a) a facility is operating without a license and residents are in danger of serious physical or mental harm;

(b) a facility intending to close has not made arrangements within 30 days before closure for the orderly transfer of residents;

(c) a facility is abandoned by an owner; or

(d) a life threatening situation exists for the residents of the facility.

(2) If the department believes or has received notice from the department of justice that there is an emergency that presents or might present an immediate and serious threat to the health or safety of patients or residents of a facility, a receiver may be appointed by the court upon an ex parte application by the department. If a receiver is appointed upon an ex parte application, notice must be given by the department to the facility within 24 hours of issuance of

the receivership order and a hearing must be offered the facility by the court within 10 days of issuance of the order to determine whether the order will be continued.

(3) The department shall maintain a list of persons qualified to act as receivers.

(4) The selection, appointment, and removal of receivers must be consistent with Title 27, chapter 20, parts 2 and 3.

(5) Whenever possible, receivers must be paid from the income of the facility. However, receivers may be paid from the patient protection account provided for in 50-5-232. The court shall direct the amount of payments to be made to the receiver, the payments to be made by the receiver, and the order of payments made to the receiver or to other entities. Payments owed to a facility that are made to the receiver must be used to discharge any obligation of the entity making the payments owed to the facility.

(6) The powers and duties of the receiver include:

(a) the duty to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the residents;

(b) the power to hire, discipline, and fire staff;

(c) the power to collect debts due to the facility;

(d) the power to settle labor disputes;

(e) the power to petition the court to set aside unreasonable contracts or leases entered into by the facility management;

(f) the power to make capital investments in the facility with court approval; and

(g) all other powers granted receivers by 27-20-302.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-5-116. Facility inspections. (1) In addition to its annual licensure inspections, as provided by 50-5-204, the department may inspect any facility for compliance with part 1 or 2 of this chapter or for compliance with a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

(2) An authorized representative of the department may inspect a facility and associated property without prior notice to the owner or staff of the facility whenever the department considers it necessary. The authorized representative must be given access to all records and an opportunity to copy the records.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

50-5-117. Economic credentialing of physicians prohibited — definitions. (1) Except to the extent necessary to determine physician competency or to comply with medicare or medicaid certification under Titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, respectively, or for accreditation by organizations that accredit hospitals or outpatient centers for surgical services, a hospital or an outpatient center for surgical services may not engage in economic credentialing by:

(a) requiring a physician requesting medical staff membership or medical staff privileges to agree to make referrals to that hospital, to an outpatient center for surgical services, or to any facility related to the hospital or the outpatient center for surgical services;

(b) refusing to grant staff membership or medical staff privileges or conditioning or otherwise limiting a physician's medical staff participation because the physician or a partner, associate, or employee of the physician:

(i) provides medical or health care services at, has an ownership interest in, or occupies a leadership position on the medical staff of a different hospital, hospital system, or health care facility; or

(ii) participates or does not participate in any particular health plan; or

(c) refusing to grant participatory status in a hospital or hospital system health plan or outpatient center for surgical services health plan to a physician who has medical staff privileges because the physician or a partner, an associate, or an employee of the physician provides medical or health care services at, has an ownership interest in, or occupies a leadership position on the medical staff of a different hospital, hospital system, or health care facility.

(2) Notwithstanding the prohibitions in subsection (1), a hospital or an outpatient center for surgical services may require recusal of a physician member of the board, the president of the medical staff of the hospital or outpatient center for surgical services, or the presiding officer of a medical staff committee from financial decisions and information related to the hospital or

outpatient center for surgical services if the physician member of the board, the president of the hospital medical staff or outpatient center for surgical services staff, or the presiding officer of a medical staff committee has a conflict of interest relevant to those decisions or that information.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Board" means the governing body or board of directors of a hospital or an outpatient center for surgical services.

(b) "Conflict of interest" means, notwithstanding the board's own conflict of interest policy, a situation in which a physician in a leadership position either individually or through an immediate family member, as defined in 15-30-3002, or through a partner or employee of the physician has a financial interest in any health care facility that may compromise the board's fiduciary responsibility.

(c) (i) "Economic credentialing" means the denial of a physician's application for staff membership or clinical privileges to practice medicine in a hospital or an outpatient center for surgical services on criteria other than the individual's education, training, current competence, experience, ability, personal character, and judgment.

(ii) This term does not mean use by the hospital or the outpatient center for surgical services of:

(A) exclusive contracts with physicians if the contracts do not violate the unfair trade practices provisions of Title 30, chapter 14, part 2;

(B) medical staff on-call requirements if the on-call requirements do not violate the unfair trade practices and consumer protection provisions of 30-14-103 or Title 30, chapter 14, part 2;

(C) adherence to a formulary approved by the medical staff; or

(D) other medical staff policy adopted to manage health care costs or improve quality.

(d) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(e) "Health plan" means a plan offered by any person, employer, trust, government agency, association, corporation, or other entity to provide, sponsor, arrange for, indemnify another for, or pay for health care services to eligible members, insureds, enrollees, employees, participants, beneficiaries, or dependents, including but not limited to a health plan provided by an insurance company, health service organization, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, self-insured health plan, captive insurer, multiple employee welfare arrangement, workers' compensation plan, medicare, or medicaid.

(f) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 2009.**

50-5-118 through 50-5-120 reserved.

50-5-121. Hospital discrimination based on ability to pay prohibited — community benefit and financial assistance requirements — rulemaking authority. (1) A hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency hospital must have in writing a policy applying to all patients, including medicaid and medicare patients, that prohibits discrimination based on a patient's ability to pay.

(2) A hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency hospital may not transfer a patient to another hospital or health care facility based on the patient's ability to pay for health care services.

(3) (a) A hospital operating as a nonprofit health care facility must have in writing:

(i) a financial assistance policy consistent with federal standards and standards established by the department, applicable to the area the hospital serves; and

(ii) a community benefit policy consistent with federal standards and standards established by the department.

(b) A hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency hospital operating as a nonprofit health care facility shall:

(i) adhere to the written financial assistance and community benefit policies; and

(ii) make the policies available to the public.

(4) No later than July 1, 2024, the department shall adopt rules to implement the financial assistance and community benefit requirements of this part, which must be specific to the hospital and the area or areas it serves. Rules must include but are not limited to rules that:

(a) define financial assistance and community benefit consistent with federal standards, wherever possible;

(b) establish the standards for community benefit and financial assistance applicable to hospitals operating as nonprofit health care facilities consistent with federal standards, wherever possible; and

(c) establish penalties for failing to comply with 50-5-106 and this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Transition: Section 5, Ch. 364, L. 2023, provided: "(1) The department of public health and human services may not require the submission of the financial assistance policy and community benefit report required under [this act] until the department has adopted rules specifying the information to be reported.

(2) A hospital financial assistance policy required under [this act] may comply with only federal financial assistance standards until the department of public health and human services has adopted rules specifying state standards for the policy."

50-5-122. Transfer of hospital patients. In cases where the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395dd, does not apply, a hospital may not transfer a patient to another hospital using only a call to a 9-1-1 service. The hospital shall:

(1) before the transfer, provide notice to the other hospital, including the reason for the transfer; and

(2) during the transfer, provide the medical records related to the patient's current hospitalization.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 2009.

Part 2
Licensing

Part Cross-References

One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

50-5-201. License requirements. (1) A facility or licensee considering construction of or alteration or addition to a health care facility shall submit plans and specifications to the department for preliminary inspection and approval prior to commencing construction.

(2) A person may not operate a health care facility unless the facility is licensed by the department. Licenses may be issued for a period of 1 to 3 years in duration. A license is valid only for the person and premises for which it was issued. A license may not be sold, assigned, or transferred.

(3) Upon discontinuance of the operation or upon transfer of ownership of a facility, the license must be returned to the department.

(4) Licenses must be displayed in a conspicuous place near the admitting office of the facility.

History: En. Sec. 161, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5203; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

50-5-202. License fees. The department shall collect fees for each license issued for deposit in the state general fund as follows:

(1) facilities with 20 beds or less—$20;

(2) facilities with 21 beds or more—$1 per bed.

History: En. Sec. 162, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5204.

50-5-203. Application for license. The procedure to apply for a license is as follows:

(1) At least 30 days prior to the opening of a facility and after that no later than the expiration date of the license, application is made to the department accompanied by the license fee.

(2) The application shall contain:

(a) the name and address of the applicant if an individual, the name and address of each member if a firm, partnership, or association, or the name and address of each officer if a corporation;

(b) the location of the facility;

(c) the name of the person or persons who will manage or supervise the facility;

(d) the number and type of patients or residents for which care is provided;

(e) any information which the department may require pertaining to the number, experience, and training of employees;

(f) information on ownership, contract, or lease agreement if operated by a person other than the owner.

(3) Applications must include attestation or supporting documentation required by the department pertaining to the licensure of specialty hospitals using the procedures provided in parts 1 and 2 of this chapter. The attestation may be used as the basis for the issuance of a provisional or temporary license.

History: En. Sec. 163, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 282, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5205; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 405, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 2007.

50-5-204. Issuance and renewal of licenses — inspections. (1) After receipt of a new application and notice that the facility is ready to be inspected, the department or its authorized agent shall conduct an initial inspection of the facility within 45 days.

(2) After receipt of an application for renewal of a license, the department or its authorized agent shall inspect the facility without prior notice to the operator or staff.

(3) If the department determines that the facility meets minimum standards and the proposed or existing staff is qualified, the department shall issue a license for a period of 1 to 3 years in duration.

(4) If minimum standards are not met, the department may issue a provisional license for less than 1 year if operation will not result in undue hazard to patients or residents or if the demand for accommodations offered is not met in the community.

(5) The minimum standards that home health agencies must meet in order to be licensed must be as outlined in 42 U.S.C. 1395x(o), as amended, and in rules implementing it that add minimum standards.

(6) The department may inspect a licensed health care facility whenever it considers it necessary. The entire premises of a licensed facility must be open to inspection, and access to all records must be granted at all reasonable times.

History: En. Sec. 164, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5206; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, Sp. L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 405, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

Investigation of complaint under Montana Elder and Persons With Developmental Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act, 52-3-811.

50-5-205. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 165, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5207.

50-5-206. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 166, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5208.

50-5-207. Denial, suspension, or revocation of health care facility license — provisional license. (1) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a health care facility license if any of the following circumstances exist:

(a) The facility fails to meet the minimum standards pertaining to it prescribed under 50-5-103.

(b) The staff is insufficient in number or unqualified by lack of training or experience.

(c) The applicant or any person managing it has been convicted of a felony and denial of a license on that basis is consistent with 37-1-203 or the applicant otherwise shows evidence of character traits inimical to the health and safety of patients or residents.

(d) The applicant does not have the financial ability to operate the facility in accordance with law or rules or standards adopted by the department.

(e) There is cruelty or indifference affecting the welfare of the patients or residents.

(f) There is misappropriation of the property or funds of a patient or resident.

(g) There is conversion of the property of a patient or resident without the patient's or resident's consent.

(h) Any provision of parts 1 through 3 is violated.

(2) The department may reduce a license to provisional status if as a result of an inspection it is determined that the facility has failed to comply with a provision of part 1 or 2 of this chapter or has failed to comply with a rule, license provision, or order adopted or issued pursuant to part 1 or 2.

(3) The denial, suspension, or revocation of a health care facility license is not subject to the certificate of need requirements of part 3.

(4) The department may provide in its revocation order that the revocation is in effect for up to 2 years. If this provision is appealed, it must be affirmed or reversed by the court.

History: En. Sec. 167, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5209; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 253, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 351, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Montana Elder and Persons With Developmental Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act, Title 52, ch. 3, part 8.

50-5-208. Hearing required. (1) A license may not be denied, suspended, or revoked without notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the department.

(2) Notice must be given the applicant or licensee of a date, not less than 15 days after mailing or service, for a hearing before the department.

(3) The decision of the department is final 30 days after it is mailed or served unless the applicant or licensee commences an action in the district court to appeal the decision. An appeal must be in the district court where the facility is located or will be located.

History: En. Sec. 168, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5210; amd. Sec. 254, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-5-209. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 177, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5219.

50-5-210. Department to make rules — standards for hospices. (1) The department shall by rule establish standards for the licensure of a hospice. These standards must consider the terminally ill patient and the patient's family as a unit and require service delivery through a medically directed interdisciplinary team of professionals and volunteers acting under a defined hospice administration.

(2) A hospice must meet the standards of care defined by law for any skilled care it provides that normally would be provided by a licensed facility such as a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or home health agency.

(3) The department shall by rule establish standards for the licensure of a residential hospice facility.

(4) The department shall by rule establish standards for the licensure of a freestanding inpatient hospice facility in accordance with medicare certification regulations contained in 42 CFR, part 418, subparts C through E, as adopted by the department. To be licensed by the department, the facility must be managed directly by a medicare-certified hospice.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-5-211. Hospital hospice programs — exemptions from separate licensure. A hospice program provided by a hospital need not be separately licensed if the department finds that such program meets the standards of 50-5-210.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 1983.

50-5-212. Organ procurement program required. The administrator of a hospital licensed under this chapter shall as a condition of licensure under 50-5-201:

(1) establish a written protocol for the identification of potential organ donors that:

(a) ensures that families of potential organ donors are made aware of the option of organ or tissue donation and their option to decline;

(b) encourages discretion and sensitivity with respect to the circumstances, views, and beliefs of families of potential organ donors; and

(c) requires that a qualified organ procurement agency be notified of potential organ donors;

(2) designate and train a person or persons to represent the administrator for purposes of requesting an anatomical gift as provided in 72-17-213; and

(3) make known to the public that the hospital has an organ procurement program as described in subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 219, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1814, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

HIV testing required, 50-16-1008.

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

50-5-213. Requirements for home infusion therapy services. An agency providing home infusion therapy services shall directly provide either the home infusion therapy services or skilled nursing services and may either directly provide or may arrange for the provision of the other services.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 366, L. 1995.**

50-5-214. Requirements for retirement homes. A retirement home shall offer meals or central kitchens but may not offer nursing or personal-care services to the residents, other than by a contract with a third party.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 366, L. 1995.**

50-5-215. Standards for adult foster care homes. The department may adopt rules establishing standards for the licensing of adult foster care homes. The standards must provide for the safety and comfort of the residents and may be adopted by the department only after receiving the advice and recommendations of the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice in relation to fire and safety requirements for adult foster care homes.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 449, L. 2007.**

50-5-216. Limitation on care provided in adult foster care home. (1) Except as provided in this section, the types of care offered by adult foster care homes are limited to light personal care or custodial care and may not include skilled nursing care.

(2) An adult foster care home may be licensed to provide care for an adult receiving state-funded services through the developmental disabilities program of the department or for an adult who resided in the home before reaching 18 years of age, even though the adult is:

(a) in need of skilled nursing care;

(b) in need of medical, physical, or chemical restraint;

(c) nonambulatory or bedridden;

(d) incontinent to the extent that bowel or bladder control is absent; or

(e) unable to self-administer medications.

(3) An adult foster care home that applies for a license under subsection (2) shall provide the department with a copy of the statement required in subsection (4).

(4) A resident of an adult foster care home licensed under subsection (2) must have a certification in the form of a signed statement, renewed on an annual basis, from a physician, a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner, or a registered nurse, whose work is unrelated to the operation of the home and who has actually visited the home within the year covered by the statement and certifies that:

(a) the services available to the resident in the home or in the community, or services that may be brought into the home from the community, including nursing services or therapies, are appropriate for meeting the health care or other needs of the resident; and

(b) the health care status of the resident does not necessitate placing the resident in a more intensive residential service setting.

(5) As used in this section, "skilled nursing care" means 24-hour care supervised by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse under the orders of an attending physician.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 133, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 519, L. 2005.**

50-5-217 through 50-5-219 reserved.

50-5-220. Licensure of outdoor behavioral programs — exemption. (1) The department shall provide for licensure of a qualified outdoor behavioral program that accepts public funding. An outdoor behavioral program that does not accept public funds or governmental contracts is exempt from licensure.

(2) The department shall develop administrative rules for licensure that must include program requirements, staff requirements, staff-to-youth ratios, staff training and health requirements, youth admission requirements, water and nutritional requirements, health care and safety, environmental requirements, infectious disease control, transportation, and evacuation. The department may accept accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting or certifying body but may not require the accreditation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2003.

50-5-221. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-222 and 50-5-223 reserved.

50-5-224. Renumbered 53-21-199. Code Commissioner, 2019.

50-5-225. Assisted living facilities — services to residents — employee background checks. (1) An assisted living facility shall, at a minimum, provide or make provisions for:

(a) personal services, such as laundry, housekeeping, food service, and local transportation;

(b) assistance with activities of daily living, as provided for in the facility admission agreement and that do not require the use of a licensed health care professional or a licensed practical nurse;

(c) recreational activities;

(d) assistance with self-medication;

(e) 24-hour onsite supervision by staff; and

(f) assistance in arranging health-related services, such as medical appointments and appointments related to hearing aids, glasses, or dentures.

(2) An assisted living facility may provide, make provisions for, or allow a resident to obtain third-party provider services for:

(a) the administration of medications consistent with applicable laws and regulations; and

(b) skilled nursing care or other skilled services related to temporary, short-term, acute illnesses, which may not exceed 30 consecutive days for one episode or more than a total of 120 days in 1 year.

(3) An assisted living facility shall conduct a background check on all individuals who have accepted employment. The background check may be a name-based background check.

(4) An assisted living facility may not employ a person who:

(a) has been found guilty in a court of law of an offense involving abuse, neglect, exploitation, mistreatment, or misappropriation of property;

(b) has been subject to disciplinary action by a state professional licensing board because of a finding of abuse, neglect, exploitation, mistreatment of residents, or misappropriation of resident property; or

(c) has had a finding entered into the state nurse aide registry concerning abuse, neglect, exploitation, mistreatment of residents, or misappropriation of resident property.

(5) An assisted living facility may provisionally employ an individual pending the results of a background check.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2019.

50-5-226. Placement in assisted living facilities. (1) An assisted living facility may provide personal-care services to a resident who is 18 years of age or older and in need of the personal care for which the facility is licensed under 50-5-227.

(2) An assisted living facility licensed as a category A facility under 50-5-227 may not admit or retain a category A resident unless each of the following conditions is met:

(a) The resident may not require physical or chemical restraint or confinement in locked quarters, but may consent to the use of safety devices pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5, part 12.

(b) The resident may not have a stage 3 or stage 4 pressure ulcer.

(c) The resident may not have a gastrostomy or jejunostomy tube.

(d) The resident may not require skilled nursing care or other skilled services on a continued basis except for the administration of medications consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

(e) The resident may not be a danger to self or others.

(f) The resident must be able to accomplish activities of daily living with supervision and assistance based on the following:

(i) the resident may not be consistently and totally dependent in four or more activities of daily living as a result of a cognitive or physical impairment; and

(ii) the resident may not have a severe cognitive impairment that renders the resident incapable of expressing needs or making basic care decisions.

(3) An assisted living facility licensed as a category B facility under 50-5-227 may not admit or retain a category B resident unless each of the following conditions is met:

(a) The resident may require skilled nursing care or other services for more than 30 days for an incident, for more than 120 days a year that may be provided or arranged for by either the facility or the resident, and as provided for in the facility agreement.

(b) The resident may be consistently and totally dependent in more than four activities of daily living.

(c) The resident may not require physical or chemical restraint or confinement in locked quarters, but may consent to the use of safety devices pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5, part 12.

(d) The resident may not be a danger to self or others.

(e) The resident must have a practitioner's written order for admission as a category B resident and written orders for care.

(f) The resident must have a signed health care assessment, renewed on a quarterly basis by a licensed health care professional who:

(i) actually visited the facility within the calendar quarter covered by the assessment;

(ii) has certified that the particular needs of the resident can be adequately met in the facility; and

(iii) has certified that there has been no significant change in health care status that would require another level of care.

(4) An assisted living facility licensed as a category C facility under 50-5-227 may not admit or retain a category C resident unless each of the following conditions is met:

(a) The resident has a severe cognitive impairment that renders the resident incapable of expressing needs or of making basic care decisions.

(b) The resident may be at risk for leaving the facility without regard for personal safety.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the resident may not be a danger to self or others.

(d) The resident may not require physical or chemical restraint or confinement in locked quarters, but may consent to the use of safety devices pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5, part 12.

(5) (a) An assisted living facility licensed as a category D facility under 50-5-227 may not admit or retain a category D resident unless each of the conditions in subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c) is met or a court has ordered diversion as provided in subsection (5)(d).

(b) The resident must be dependent on assistance for two or more activities of daily living and may require skilled nursing care or other services that may be provided or arranged for by either the facility or the resident or provided for in the facility agreement.

(c) The resident must be assessed by a practitioner or adjudged by a court as having been or potentially being a danger to self or others. The practitioner shall submit both a health care assessment, renewed on a monthly basis, and a written order for care that:

(i) provides information on behavioral patterns under which the category D resident may pose a threat to others and may need to be kept separate from other category D residents or residents in other categories of assisted care;

(ii) lists the conditions under which the category D resident can be reasonably, temporarily restrained, using protective restraints, medications, or confinement to avoid harm to the resident or others;

(iii) includes a reason why a category D assisted living facility is more appropriate than other options for care and provides an assessment of the resident's needs and plan for care; and

(iv) indicates the timeframe over which the resident's health care status has remained the same or changed.

(d) A court may order a diversion from an involuntary commitment to Montana state hospital or from the Montana mental health nursing care center as provided in 53-21-127 or 53-21-199. A diversion ordered pursuant to 53-21-199 may be an involuntary commitment but must be treated as provided in 53-21-181.

(6) For category B, C, and D residents, the assisted living facility shall specify services that it will provide in the facility admission criteria.

(7) The department shall develop standardized forms and education and training materials to provide to the assisted living facilities and to the licensed health care professionals who are responsible for the signed statements provided for in subsection (3)(f). The use of the standardized forms is voluntary.

(8) The department shall provide by rule:

(a) an application or placement procedure informing a prospective resident and, if applicable, the resident's practitioner of:

(i) physical and mental standards for residents of assisted living facilities;

(ii) requirements for placement in a facility with a higher standard of care if a resident's condition deteriorates; and

(iii) the services offered by the facility and services that a resident may receive from third-party providers while the resident lives at the facility;

(b) standards to be used by a facility and, if appropriate, by a screening agency to screen residents and prospective residents to prevent residence by individuals referred to in subsections (3) through (5). An individual subject to 46-14-301 is not eligible to be placed in a category D assisted living facility.

(c) a method by which the results of any screening decision made pursuant to rules established under subsection (8)(b) may be appealed by the facility operator or by or on behalf of a resident or prospective resident;

(d) standards for operating a category A assisted living facility, including standards for the physical, structural, environmental, sanitary, infection control, dietary, social, staffing, and recordkeeping components of a facility and the storage and administration of over-the-counter and prescription medications;

(e) standards for operating a category B assisted living facility, which must include the standards for a category A assisted living facility and additional standards for assessment of residents, care planning, qualifications and training of staff, prevention and care of pressure sores, and incontinence care; and

(f) standards for operating a category C and a category D assisted living facility, which must include the standards for a category B assisted living facility and additional standards for resident assessment, the provision of specialty care to residents with cognitive impairments, and additional qualifications of and training for the administrator and direct-care staff. The standards for a category D assisted living facility must also include specific safety and restraint training.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 255, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Department of Public Health and Human Services, title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

50-5-227. Licensing assisted living facilities. (1) The department shall by rule adopt standards for licensing and operation of assisted living facilities to implement the provisions of 50-5-225 and 50-5-226.

(2) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of an assisted living facility if the department finds a demonstrated pattern of noncompliance with the employee background check requirements of 50-5-225.

(3) The following licensing categories must be used by the department in adopting rules under subsection (1):

(a) category A facility serving residents requiring the level of care as provided for in 50-5-226(2);

(b) category B facility providing skilled nursing care or other skilled services to five or fewer residents who meet the requirements stated in 50-5-226(3);

(c) category C facility providing services to residents with cognitive impairments requiring the level of care stated in 50-5-226(4); or

(d) category D facility providing services to residents with mental disorders who may be a temporary harm to themselves or others and who require the level of care stated in 50-5-226(5).

(4) (a) A single facility meeting the applicable requirements for a category A facility may additionally be licensed to provide category B or category C services with the approval of the department.

(b) If a single facility meeting the applicable requirements as provided in subsection (4)(a) further seeks to be licensed as a category D facility, the facility shall provide documentation that indicates the facility can keep all residents safe.

(5) The department may by rule establish license fees, inspection fees, and fees for patient screening. Fees must be reasonably related to service costs.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 256, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 402, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Department of Public Health and Human Services, title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

50-5-228. Limited licensing. The department may grant a license that is provisional upon the correction of noncompliance with provisions of 50-5-225 through 50-5-228 or rules adopted pursuant to 50-5-225 through 50-5-228. A provisional license may be granted only for a specific period of time and may not be renewed.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 208, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

50-5-229. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 597, L. 1983.

50-5-230. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 597, L. 1983.

50-5-231. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1993.

History: En. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 433, L. 1981.

50-5-232. Patient protection account — deposit of funds. (1) There is a patient protection account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) There is deposited in the patient protection account money received by the department in the form of gifts, grants, reimbursements, or appropriations from any source that are intended to be used for the purposes of the account.

(3) The funds deposited in the patient protection account may be used only:

(a) to pay for the costs of a receivership; and

(b) to pay for the cost of department-initiated relocation of residents.

(4) Penalties collected pursuant to part 1 or 2 of this chapter must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 415, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

50-5-233. Designation of critical access hospitals — adoption of rules. (1) The department may designate as a critical access hospital a facility that:

(a) is:

(i) located more than 35 road miles or, in the case of a facility located in mountainous terrain or where only secondary roads exist, more than 15 road miles from a hospital or another critical access hospital; or

(ii) a necessary provider of health care services to residents of the area where the facility is located;

(b) provides 24-hour emergency care that is necessary for ensuring access to emergency care services in the area served by the facility;

(c) complies with the bed limitations adopted by rule, not to exceed the number specified in 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)(B), (c)(2)(E), and (f);

(d) provides inpatient acute care for a period not exceeding 96 hours, as determined on an average, annual basis for each patient;

(e) complies with the staffing requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)(B)(iv); and

(f) operates a quality assessment and performance improvement program and follows appropriate procedures for review of utilization of services as specified in 42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2)(I).

(2) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including the following:

(a) standards for determining whether the facility qualifies as a necessary provider pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(ii);

(b) standards for determining whether the 24-hour emergency care provided is necessary to ensure that the area served by the facility has adequate access to emergency care services;

(c) procedures for applying for and receiving designation as a critical access hospital; and

(d) designation of the maximum number of beds allowed pursuant to subsection (1)(c) and consistent with federal law.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 192, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 2005.

50-5-234. Designation as rural emergency hospital — requirements — rulemaking. (1) The department may designate as a rural emergency hospital a facility that operates for the purpose of providing emergency department services, observation care, and outpatient services and in which the annual per patient average length of stay does not exceed 24 hours. The designation is available to a facility that, as of December 27, 2020, was licensed as:

(a) a critical access hospital; or

(b) a hospital with 50 or fewer beds if the hospital is:

(i) located in a county in a rural area as defined in the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(2)(D); or

(ii) deemed as being located in a rural area pursuant to the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(8)(E).

(2) A hospital seeking rural emergency hospital designation:

(a) shall maintain a 24-hour emergency department that:

(i) provides emergency and observation care;

(ii) is open 7 days a week; and

(iii) is staffed with a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse certified as a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist, or a physician assistant;

(b) must have:

(i) a transfer agreement in effect with a hospital that is designated by the department pursuant to 50-6-410 as, at a minimum, a regional trauma center; and

(ii) any other transfer agreement necessary for patient care;

(c) shall provide laboratory services; and

(d) shall provide pharmacy services or maintain a drug storage area.

(3) A rural emergency hospital may:

(a) provide outpatient services as allowed by the department by rule, in accordance with federal regulations governing rural emergency hospitals; and

(b) own and operate an entity that provides ambulance services.

(4) A rural emergency hospital may not have inpatient beds unless the hospital has a unit that is a distinct part of the hospital and is licensed as a skilled nursing facility to provide extended posthospital care.

(5) A facility that applies for a rural emergency hospital designation shall include with its application:

(a) an action plan for initiating rural emergency hospital services, including a detailed transition plan that lists the specific services the facility will retain, modify, add, and discontinue;

(b) a description of services that the facility intends to provide on an outpatient basis; and

(c) other information as required by the department by rule.

(6) A hospital or critical access hospital that applies for the designation and elects to operate as a rural emergency hospital may later transition back to its original license as a hospital or critical access hospital.

(7) Before approving an application under this section, the department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including but not limited to:

(a) licensure standards that satisfy the requirement for reimbursement by federal health care programs as a rural emergency hospital;

(b) procedures for applying for and receiving designation as a rural emergency hospital; and

(c) services the facility may provide on an outpatient basis, in accordance with federal regulations governing rural emergency hospital designation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 602, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

50-5-235. Hourly limitation waivable by department or department's designee. The department or the department's designee may waive the 24-hour limitation related to recovery care beds, as defined in 50-5-101, as that limitation applies to a particular bed, if the attending physician of the individual occupying the bed determines that the waiver is medically appropriate. The waiver may be granted by the department before or after the 24-hour limitation is exceeded.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2001.

50-5-236 and 50-5-237 reserved.

50-5-238. Licensure of intermediate care facility for developmentally disabled — rulemaking. (1) The department shall adopt procedures for licensing intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled. A person may not operate an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled without a license. The application for a license must include:

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) the location of the intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled;

(c) the name of the person or persons who will manage or supervise the intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled;

(d) the number of persons with developmental disabilities who will receive care at the intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled; and

(e) other information required by the department by rule.

(2) The department may adopt rules establishing standards for licensing intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled. The standards must address the protection of residents' rights, individual resident treatment and habilitation needs, staffing requirements, including qualifications, resident behavior and facility practices, health care services, physical environment, dietetic services, and recordkeeping.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 403, L. 2003.

50-5-239 through 50-5-244 reserved.

50-5-245. Department to license specialty hospitals — standards — rulemaking — moratorium. (1) Subject to subsection (4), the department shall license specialty hospitals using the requirements for licensure of hospitals and the procedure provided for in parts 1 and 2 of this chapter.

(2) Prior to approving an application under this section, the department shall adopt rules that are necessary to implement and administer this section.

(3) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1), the department may not accept an application or issue a license for a specialty hospital before July 1, 2009.

(4) A health care facility licensed by the department and in existence on May 8, 2007, may not change its licensure status in order to qualify for licensure as a specialty hospital unless the health care facility is licensed as a hospital and the hospital is not subject to the provisions of 50-5-246 and subsections (5) through (9) of this section.

(5) A specialty hospital meets the 24-hour emergency care requirements for a hospital, as defined in 50-5-101, if it has an agreement with a hospital in the area served by the specialty hospital stating that the hospital will provide 24-hour emergency care to patients of the specialty hospital.

(6) A specialty hospital applying for a license must have:

(a) a financial assistance policy meeting the provisions of 50-5-121 if the hospital will be operating as a nonprofit health care facility or meeting the provisions of subsection (9) of this section, if applicable; and

(b) a joint venture relationship with a hospital; or

(c) a signed statement from a hospital operating as a nonprofit health care facility in the community acknowledging that the hospital declined a bona fide, good faith opportunity to participate in a joint venture with the applicant.

(7) A specialty hospital owned by physicians and proposed as a joint venture with a hospital operating as a nonprofit health care facility in the community may be licensed if:

(a) the majority of partnering physicians hold active privileges with the joint venture hospital; and

(b) the partnering hospital holds an ownership interest of at least 50%.

(8) This section does not prohibit physicians who are partners in a specialty hospital that is proposed as a joint venture from managing the specialty hospital.

(9) The financial assistance policy for a specialty hospital applying as a joint venture with a hospital operating as a nonprofit health care facility in the community must be the same as the policy used by the hospital.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Transition: Section 5, Ch. 364, L. 2023, provided: "(1) The department of public health and human services may not require the submission of the financial assistance policy and community benefit report required under [this act] until the department has adopted rules specifying the information to be reported.

(2) A hospital financial assistance policy required under [this act] may comply with only federal financial assistance standards until the department of public health and human services has adopted rules specifying state standards for the policy."

50-5-246. Specialty hospital application process — impact study. (1) The application process for a specialty hospital must include an impact study that analyzes the financial and operational impacts of the proposed specialty hospital on existing health care facilities in the service area.

(2) An applicant for a specialty hospital license shall:

(a) provide the department with a list of independent consultants who could conduct the impact study required under this section; and

(b) pay the costs of the impact study.

(3) The department shall:

(a) approve a consultant to conduct an impact study from among the consultants submitted by the applicant or from a list of consultants known to the department;

(b) determine the scope of the study necessary to assess the potential positive and adverse impacts on access to health care services in the applicant's proposed service area; and

(c) provide an opportunity for public comment and participation in the study process, including the opportunity to comment on the list of consultants provided by an applicant pursuant to subsection (2)(a).

(4) The scope of the study established by the department may include but is not limited to:

(a) the impact on health care costs in the service area;

(b) the impacts on access to emergency care, mental health care, and other subsidized services provided in the service area; and

(c) the operational impacts on existing health care facilities located in the service area.

(5) The impact study must be completed within 180 days of the date the department establishes the scope of the study.

(6) If the department finds, based on the results of the impact study and public comment, that a proposed specialty hospital would adversely affect an existing hospital or the community's access to health care services, the department shall:

(a) impose conditions on the applicant and on the specialty hospital, if licensed, to mitigate the adverse impact on the community; or

(b) deny a license to the applicant.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 2009.

50-5-247. Licensure of eating disorder centers — rulemaking — definition. (1) The department shall license eating disorder centers that provide intensive outpatient or partial hospitalization programs for individuals with eating disorders as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

(2) The department shall adopt administrative rules for licensure, including but not limited to rules establishing:

(a) patient-to-staff ratios;

(b) the treatment services that must be available on site or through arrangements with other health care facilities, including crisis and hospital services; and

(c) license and inspection fees. Fees must be reasonably related to service costs.

(3) The rules may not establish requirements that are more stringent than standards established by accrediting entities approved by the U.S. centers for medicare and medicaid services for accreditation of behavioral health care organizations that provide care for individuals with eating disorders.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "partial hospitalization program" means an active treatment program that offers therapeutically intensive, coordinated, structured treatment services to individuals who have been diagnosed with an eating disorder. Services include day, evening, night, and weekend treatment programs that use an integrated, comprehensive, and complementary schedule of recognized treatment or therapeutic activities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 345, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Part 3
Certificate of Need

50-5-301. When certificate of need is required — definitions — report on capital expenditures not subject to certificate of need. (1) Unless a person has submitted an application for and is the holder of a certificate of need granted by the department, the person may not initiate any of the following:

(a) a change in the bed capacity of a long-term care facility through an increase in the number of beds or a relocation of beds from one long-term care facility or site to another, unless:

(i) the number of beds involved is 10 or less or 10% or less of the licensed beds, if fractional, rounded down to the nearest whole number, whichever figure is smaller, and no beds have been added or relocated during the 2 years prior to the date on which the letter of intent for the proposal is received;

(ii) a letter of intent is submitted to the department; and

(iii) the department determines that the proposal will not significantly increase the cost of care provided or exceed the bed need projected in the state long-term care facilities plan;

(b) the addition of a health service that is offered by or on behalf of a long-term care facility that was not offered by or on behalf of the facility within the 12-month period before the month in which the service would be offered and that will result in additional annual operating and amortization expenses of $150,000 or more;

(c) the incurring of an obligation for a capital expenditure by any person or persons to acquire 50% or more of an existing long-term care facility unless:

(i) the person submits the letter of intent required by 50-5-302(2); and

(ii) the department finds that the acquisition will not significantly increase the cost of care provided or increase bed capacity;

(d) the construction, development, or other establishment of a long-term care facility that is being replaced or that did not previously exist, by any person, including another type of long-term care facility;

(e) the use of hospital beds in excess of five to provide services to patients or residents needing only skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate developmental disability care, as those levels of care are defined in 50-5-101; or

(f) the provision by a hospital of services for long-term care.

(2) (a) For purposes of this part, "long-term care facility" means an entity that provides skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate developmental disability care, as defined in 50-5-101, to a total of two or more individuals.

(b) The term does not include residential care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101; community homes for persons with developmental disabilities, licensed under 53-20-305; community homes for persons with severe disabilities, licensed under 52-4-203; boarding or foster homes for children, licensed under 52-2-622; hotels, motels, boardinghouses, roominghouses, or similar accommodations providing for transients, students, or individuals not requiring institutional health care; or correctional facilities operating under the authority of the department of corrections.

(3) This section may not be construed to require a long-term care facility to obtain a certificate of need for a nonreviewable service that would not be subject to a certificate of need if undertaken by a person other than a long-term care facility.

(4) (a) When a person incurs an obligation by or on behalf of a long-term care facility for a capital expenditure that exceeds $5 million and does not otherwise require a certificate of need under this part, the person shall, upon completion of the project:

(i) notify the department of the total amount of the expenditure; and

(ii) provide a description of the project.

(b) This subsection (4) does not apply to a capital expenditure that involves the acquisition of an existing long-term care facility.

History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 764, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 257, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 98, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 339, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 2021.

Cross-References

County power to erect and manage hospitals and nursing homes, to lease property for hospital purposes, and to erect and operate joint county hospital or nursing home with another county, 7-8-2102; Title 7, ch. 34, part 22; 7-34-2301; Title 7, ch. 34, part 25.

Municipal power to establish detention hospital to prevent spread of disease, 7-34-4101.

50-5-302. Letter of intent — application and review process. (1) The department may adopt rules including but not limited to rules for:

(a) the form and content of letters of intent and applications;

(b) the scheduling of reviews;

(c) the format of public informational hearings and reconsideration hearings;

(d) the circumstances under which applications may be comparatively reviewed; and

(e) the circumstances under which a certificate of need may be approved for the use of hospital beds to provide skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate developmental disability care to patients or residents needing only that level of care.

(2) At least 30 days before any person or persons acquire or enter into a contract to acquire 50% or more of an existing long-term care facility, they shall submit to the department a letter noting intent to acquire the facility and of the services to be offered in the facility and its bed capacity.

(3) Any person intending to initiate an activity for which a certificate of need is required shall submit a letter of intent to the department.

(4) The department may determine that the proposals should be comparatively reviewed with similar proposals that are also subject to review.

(5) On the 10th day of each month, the department shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be served by the proposal a description of each letter of intent received by the department during the preceding calendar month. Within 30 days of the publication, any person who desires comparative review with a proposal described in the publication must submit a letter of intent requesting comparative review.

(6) The department shall give to each person submitting a letter of intent written notice of the deadline for submission of an application for certificate of need, which will be no less than 30 days after the notice is sent.

(7) Within 20 working days after receipt of an application, the department shall determine whether it is complete and, if the application is found incomplete, shall send a written request to the applicant specifying the necessary additional information and a date by which the additional information must be submitted to the department. The department shall allow at least 15 days after the mailing of its written request for the submission of the additional information. Upon

receipt of the additional information from the applicant, the department has an additional 15 working days to determine if the application is complete and, if the application is still incomplete, to send a notice to the applicant that the application is incomplete.

(8) If the applicant fails to submit the necessary additional information requested by the department by the deadline prescribed by the department, the application is considered withdrawn.

(9) If the department fails to send either the request for additional information or the notice of incompleteness required by subsection (7) within the period prescribed in subsection (7), the application is considered to be complete on the last day of the time period during which the notice should have been sent.

(10) The review period for an application may be no longer than 90 calendar days after the application is initially received or, if the application is to be comparatively reviewed as provided in subsection (5), within 90 days after all applications to be comparatively reviewed are received. A longer period is permitted with the consent of all affected applicants.

(11) During the review period a public hearing may be held if requested by an affected person or when considered appropriate by the department.

(12) Each completed application may be considered in relation to other applications pertaining to similar types of facilities affecting the same health service area.

(13) The department shall, after considering all comments received during the review period, issue a certificate of need, with or without conditions, or deny the application. The department shall notify the applicant and affected persons of its decision within 5 working days after expiration of the review period.

(14) If the department fails to reach a decision and notify the applicant of its decision within the deadlines established in this section and if that delay constitutes an abuse of the department's discretion, the applicant may apply to district court for a writ of mandamus to force the department to issue the certificate of need.

History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(part); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 477, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

50-5-303. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(part).

50-5-304. Review criteria, required findings, and standards. The department shall by rule promulgate and use, as appropriate, specific criteria for reviewing certificate of need applications under this chapter, including but not limited to the following considerations and required findings:

(1) the degree to which the proposal being reviewed:

(a) demonstrates that the service is needed by the population within the service area defined in the proposal;

(b) provides data that demonstrates the need for services contrary to the current state long-term care facilities plan, including but not limited to waiting lists, projected service volumes, differences in cost and quality of services, and availability of services; or

(c) is consistent with the current state long-term care facilities plan;

(2) the need that the population served or to be served by the proposal has for the services;

(3) the availability of less costly quality-equivalent or more effective alternative methods of providing the services;

(4) the immediate and long-term financial feasibility of the proposal as well as the probable impact of the proposal on the costs of and charges for providing long-term care services by the person proposing the service;

(5) the relationship and financial impact of the services proposed to be provided to the existing health care system of the area in which the services are proposed to be provided;

(6) the consistency of the proposal with joint planning efforts by health care providers in the area;

(7) the availability of resources, including health and management personnel and funds for capital and operating needs, for the provision of services proposed to be provided and the availability of alternative uses of the resources for the provision of other health services;

(8) the relationship, including the organizational relationship, of the long-term care services proposed to be provided to ancillary or support services;

(9) in the case of a construction project, the costs and methods of the proposed construction, including the costs and methods of energy provision, and the probable impact of the construction project reviewed on the costs of providing long-term care services by the person proposing the construction project;

(10) the distance, convenience, cost of transportation, and accessibility of services offered by long-term care facilities for persons who live outside urban areas in relation to the proposal; and

(11) in the case of a project to add long-term care facility beds:

(a) the need for the beds that takes into account the current and projected occupancy of long-term care beds in the community;

(b) the current and projected population over 65 years of age in the community; and

(c) other appropriate factors.

History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(3), (4); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 477, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.
Medical assistance — Medicaid, Title 53, ch. 6, part 1.

50-5-305. Period of validity of approved application. (1) A certificate of need expires:

(a) 1 year after the decision to issue it is final if the applicant has not commenced construction on a project requiring construction or has not incurred an enforceable capital expenditure commitment for a project not requiring construction;

(b) 1 year after the date the project is commenced plus the estimated period of time for completion shown in the application if the approved project is not complete; or

(c) when the department determines, after opportunity for a hearing, that the holder of the certificate of need has violated the provisions of this chapter, rules adopted under this chapter, or the terms of the certificate of need.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1)(a), if a reconsideration hearing is granted or an appeal filed under 50-5-306, the final decision will be that following the hearing or resolving the appeal.

(3) The holder of an unexpired certificate of need subject to expiration under the circumstances specified in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) may apply to the department to extend the term of the certificate of need for one additional period not to exceed 6 months. The department may grant an extension upon the applicant's demonstrating good cause as defined by department rule.

History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(5); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 93, L. 1997.

50-5-306. Right to hearing and appeal. (1) An affected person may request a contested case hearing before the department under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, by filing a written request with the department within 30 days after receipt of the notification required in 50-5-302(13). The written request for a hearing must include:

(a) a statement describing each finding and conclusion in the department's initial decision that will be contested at the hearing and why each finding and conclusion is objectionable or in error; and

(b) a summary of the evidence that will be submitted to contest the findings and conclusion identified in subsection (1)(a).

(2) The hearing must be limited to the issues identified under subsection (1) and any other issues identified through discovery.

(3) The public hearing must be held within 30 calendar days after the request is received unless the hearings examiner extends the time limit for good cause.

(4) The department shall make its final decision and serve the appellant with written findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of the decision within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing unless the parties to the hearing agree to a different date.

(5) Any adversely affected person who was a party to the hearing may appeal the department's final decision to the district court as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

(6) On application by a person whose proposal has been approved under the procedure provided for in 50-5-302, a district court may order a person who requested a contested case hearing to pay the successful applicant's costs and attorney fees incurred in the hearing and on appeal, if the court determines that the reasons for requesting the contested case hearing were frivolous.

(7) The department may by rule prescribe in greater detail the hearing and appellate procedures.

History: **En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(6); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 26, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 93, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-5-307. Civil penalty — injunction. (1) A person who violates the terms of 50-5-301 is subject to a civil penalty of not less than $1,000 or more than $10,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense. The department or, upon request of the department, the county attorney of the county where the health care facility in question is located may petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. Money collected as a civil penalty shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) The department or, upon request of the department, the county attorney of the county where the long-term care facility in question is located may bring an action to enjoin a violation of 50-5-301, in addition to or exclusive of the remedy in subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 170, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5212(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 477, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

Injunctive relief provided, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-5-308. Special circumstances. The department shall issue a certificate of need for a proposed capital expenditure if:

(1) the capital expenditure is required to eliminate or prevent imminent safety hazards as defined by federal, state, or local fire, building, or life safety codes or regulations or to comply with state licensure, certification, or accreditation standards; and

(2) the department has determined that the long-term care facility or service for which the capital expenditure is proposed is needed and that the obligation of the capital expenditure is consistent with the state long-term care facilities plan.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 347, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 477, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

Fire protection equipment, Title 50, ch. 39.

Building construction standards, Title 50, ch. 60.

50-5-309. Exemptions from certificate of need review. The following are exempt from a certificate of need review:

(1) construction of a state-owned long-term care facility; and

(2) repair or replacement of a long-term care facility damaged or destroyed as a result of fire, storm, civil disturbance, or an act of God if the use of the facility after repair or replacement is within the scope of the facility's original license issued pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5, part 2.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 477, L. 2021.**

50-5-310. Fees. (1) There is no fee for filing a letter of intent.

(2) An application for certificate of need approval must be accompanied by a fee that is at least equal to 0.3% of the capital expenditure projected in the application, except that the fee may not be less than $500.

(3) Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 477, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 538, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 398, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 93, L. 1997.**

50-5-311 through 50-5-315 reserved.

50-5-316. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 93, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 616, L. 1989.

50-5-317. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 764, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 616, L. 1989.

Part 4
State Plans and Programs — Federal Aid (Repealed)

50-5-401. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (7)En. Sec. 180, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-5301, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(2), 69-5301.

50-5-402. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 181, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5302(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-403. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 187, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5308.

50-5-404. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 182, 183, 184, 186, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 78, 79, 80, 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5303, 69-5304, 69-5305(part), 69-5307; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-405. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 181, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5302(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-406. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 184, 190, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 79, 107, 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5305(part), 69-5311.

50-5-407. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 185, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5306.

50-5-408. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 188, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5309; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-409. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 189, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5310(part).

50-5-410. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 189, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5310(part).

50-5-411. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 191, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5312; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

50-5-412. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 192, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5313.

50-5-413 through 50-5-420 reserved.

50-5-421. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 668, L. 1983.

50-5-422. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 668, L. 1983.

50-5-423. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 668, L. 1983.

50-5-424. Repealed. Sec. 156, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 668, L. 1983.

Part 5
Right to Refuse Participation in Sterilization

50-5-501. Definitions. As used in this part:

(1) "person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, and corporations;

(2) "sterilization" means the performance of, assistance or participation in the performance of, or submission to an act or operation intended to eliminate an individual's reproductive capacity.

History: En. 69-5222 by Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5222.

50-5-502. Refusal by hospital or health care facility to participate in sterilization. (1) No private hospital or health care facility shall be required, contrary to the religious or moral tenets or the stated religious beliefs or moral convictions of such hospital or facility as stated by its governing body or board, to admit any person for the purpose of sterilization or to permit the use of its facilities for such purpose.

(2) Such refusal shall not give rise to liability of such hospital or health care facility or any personnel or agent or governing board thereof to any person for damages allegedly arising from such refusal or be the basis for any discriminatory, disciplinary, or other recriminatory action against such hospital or health care facility or any personnel, agent, or governing board thereof.

History: En. 69-5223 by Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5223(1).

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. 11, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.
Right to refuse participation in abortion, 50-20-111.

50-5-503. Refusal by individual to participate in sterilization. (1) All persons shall have the right to refuse to advise concerning, perform, assist, or participate in sterilization because of religious beliefs or moral convictions.

(2) If requested by any hospital or health care facility or person desiring sterilization, such refusal shall be in writing signed by the person refusing but may refer generally to the grounds of "religious beliefs and moral convictions".

(3) The refusal of any person to advise concerning, perform, assist, or participate in sterilization shall not be a consideration in respect of staff privileges of any hospital or health care facility or a basis for any discriminatory, disciplinary, or other recriminatory action against such person, nor shall such person be liable to any person for damages allegedly arising from refusal.

History: En. 69-5223 by Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5223(2).

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.
Right to refuse participation in abortion, 50-20-111.

50-5-504. Unlawful to interfere with right of refusal. (1) It shall be unlawful to interfere or attempt to interfere with the right of refusal authorized by this part, whether by duress, coercion, or any other means.

(2) The person injured thereby shall be entitled to injunctive relief, when appropriate, and shall further be entitled to monetary damages for injuries suffered.

History: En. 69-5223 by Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5223(3).

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Termination of employment, Title 39, ch. 2, part 5.

50-5-505. Refusal not grounds for loss of privileges, immunities, or public benefits. Such refusal by any hospital or health care facility or person shall not be grounds for loss of any privileges or immunities to which the granting of consent may otherwise be a condition precedent or for the loss of any public benefits.

History: En. 69-5223 by Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5223(4).

Part 6
Family Practice Residency Training

Part Cross-References
Medical Education Agreements, Title 20, ch. 25, part 8.
Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3.

50-5-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Family Practice Training Act of 1985".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 649, L. 1985.

50-5-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Family practice" means comprehensive medical care with particular emphasis on the family unit, in which the physician's continuing responsibility for health care is not limited by the patient's age or sex, as defined in 1-1-201, or by a particular organ system or disease entity.

(3) "Residency training" means a community-based family practice program to train family practice resident physicians, sponsored by one or more community hospitals and physicians in Montana, for inpatient and outpatient training.

(4) "Resident physician" means any physician in advanced medical specialty training.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 649, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 258, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 30, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-5-603. Montana family practice training program. (1) There is a Montana family practice training program to train resident physicians in family practice.

(2) The program is under the authority of the department, and the department shall contract with a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of Montana or certified to do business in Montana, to coordinate the training of family practice resident physicians. The officers and directors of the corporation must be qualified by education, experience, and interest to administer and oversee family practice resident physician training activity.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 649, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1993.

50-5-604 through 50-5-610 reserved.

50-5-611. Funding limitations. (1) Money appropriated for residency training is in addition to any other money appropriated for medical educational programs and may not supplant funds for existing medical educational programs.

(2) No funds appropriated by the legislature to fund residency training may subsidize the cost incurred by patients.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 649, L. 1985.

Part 7
Lay Caregivers

50-5-701. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aftercare" means assistance provided by a lay caregiver to a patient after the patient's discharge from a hospital and limited to the patient's condition at the time of discharge, including but not limited to assistance with:

(a) basic activities of daily living;
(b) instrumental activities of daily living; and
(c) medical or nursing tasks that do not require a licensed professional.

(2) "Discharge" means a patient's exit or release from a hospital to the patient's residence after an inpatient hospital admission.

(3) "Entry" means an individual's admission into a hospital for the purposes of inpatient care.

(4) "Hospital" means a hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency hospital as those terms are defined in 50-5-101.

(5) (a) "Lay caregiver" means an individual designated as a lay caregiver by a patient or the patient's legal representative to provide aftercare to a patient in the patient's residence. The term includes but is not limited to a spouse, relative, partner, friend, or neighbor.

(b) The term does not include an individual who receives a third-party payment for providing post-discharge assistance to a patient unless the individual is providing assistance under a Medicaid self-directed service delivery model authorized by the state.

(6) "Legal representative" means:

(a) a legal guardian;

(b) a person who holds a medical power of attorney; or

(c) a representative named in an advance health care directive recognized under Montana law or the law of another state.

(7) (a) "Residence" means a dwelling that the patient considers to be the patient's home, including the home of a lay caregiver, relative, or friend.

(b) The term does not include an assisted living facility, state-licensed group home, hospital, rehabilitation facility, or skilled nursing facility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 602, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

50-5-702. Lay caregiver — designation. (1) (a) As soon as practicable after a patient's entry and before the patient's discharge or transfer, a hospital shall provide the patient or, if applicable, the patient's legal representative with at least one opportunity to designate at least one lay caregiver.

(b) If the patient is unconscious or otherwise incapacitated upon entry, the hospital shall provide the patient or the patient's legal representative with an opportunity to designate a lay caregiver as soon as practicable after the patient regains consciousness or capacity.

(2) If the patient or the patient's legal representative declines to designate a lay caregiver, the hospital shall appropriately document the decision.

(3) If a lay caregiver is designated pursuant to this section, the hospital shall:

(a) promptly request the written consent of the patient or legal representative to release medical information to the lay caregiver, using the hospital's established procedures for releasing personal health information and in compliance with all state and federal laws governing release of the information; and

(b) appropriately document the designation of the lay caregiver, the relationship of the lay caregiver to the patient, and the name, telephone number, and address of the lay caregiver.

(4) If the patient or the patient's legal representative declines to consent to the release of medical information to the lay caregiver, the hospital is not required to provide notice to the lay caregiver as provided in 50-5-703 or to provide information contained in the discharge plan developed pursuant to 50-5-704.

(5) A patient or the patient's legal representative may change the designated lay caregiver at any time. The hospital shall appropriately document the change as soon as practicable.

(6) A person designated as a lay caregiver pursuant to this section is not obligated to perform any aftercare tasks for a patient.

(7) This section may not be construed to require a patient or a patient's legal representative to designate a lay caregiver.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

50-5-703. Notice to designated lay caregiver. (1) A hospital shall notify a patient's designated lay caregiver of the patient's impending discharge or transfer to another hospital or facility licensed by the state as soon as practicable. Notice may be provided after the patient's physician issues a discharge order and prior to the patient's discharge or transfer.

(2) If the hospital is unable to contact the lay caregiver, the lack of contact may not interfere with, delay, or otherwise affect the medical care provided to the patient or an appropriate discharge or transfer of the patient. The hospital shall appropriately document the inability to contact the lay caregiver.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

50-5-704. Instruction to designated lay caregiver. (1) As soon as practicable and before a patient's discharge, the hospital shall:

(a) consult with the lay caregiver and the patient;

(b) issue a discharge plan that describes a patient's aftercare needs at the patient's residence; and

(c) provide the lay caregiver with an opportunity for instruction in the aftercare tasks described in the discharge plan.

(2) At a minimum, a discharge plan prepared pursuant to this section must:

(a) note the name and contact information of the lay caregiver;

(b) describe all aftercare tasks necessary to maintain the patient's ability to remain in the patient's residence, taking into account the capabilities and limitations of the lay caregiver; and

(c) provide contact information for relevant followup care and for resources needed to successfully carry out the discharge plan.

(3) Instruction for the lay caregiver may be conducted in person, by telephone, or by video technology at the discretion of the lay caregiver. At a minimum, the instruction shall:

(a) be provided, to the extent possible, in nontechnical language;

(b) give the lay caregiver and patient an opportunity to ask questions about the aftercare tasks; and

(c) in a culturally competent manner, provide answers to the lay caregiver's and patient's questions.

(4) Instruction required pursuant to this section must be appropriately documented. At a minimum, the documentation must include the date, time, and contents of the instruction.

(5) Nothing in this section may delay the patient's discharge or transfer to another facility.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

50-5-705. Noninterference with powers of existing health care directives. (1) Nothing in this part may be construed to interfere with the rights of an agent operating under a valid health care directive.

(2) Designation as a lay caregiver by itself does not:

(a) constitute designation as a legal representative; or

(b) authorize the lay caregiver to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

50-5-706. Noninterference with care or discharge. Nothing in this part shall delay or otherwise affect:

(1) the medical care provided to the patient; or

(2) an appropriate discharge or transfer of the patient.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

50-5-707. Immunity. (1) Nothing in this part may be construed to create a new private right of action not otherwise existing in law against a hospital or any of its directors, trustees, officers, employees, or agents or any contractors with whom the hospital has a contractual relationship.

(2) A hospital, its directors, trustees, officers, employees, and agents and any contractors with whom the hospital has a contractual relationship may not be held liable for the services rendered or not rendered by the lay caregiver to the patient at the patient's residence if the hospital has complied with this part and acted reasonably and in good faith.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 129, L. 2017.

Parts 8 through 10 reserved

Part 11

Long-Term Health Care Facilities

50-5-1101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Long-Term Care Residents' Bill of Rights".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 1987.

50-5-1102. Findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds and declares that many residents of long-term care facilities are isolated from the community and lack the means to assert their rights.

(2) The purpose of this part is to:

(a) establish and recognize the fundamental civil and human rights to which residents of long-term care facilities are entitled; and

(b) provide for the education of residents and staff regarding these rights.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 582, L. 1987.

50-5-1103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrator" means a person who is licensed as a nursing home administrator under Title 37, chapter 9, and who administers, manages, or supervises a long-term care facility.

(2) "Authorized representative" means:

(a) a person who has a general power of attorney for a resident;

(b) a person appointed by a court to manage the personal or financial affairs of a resident;

(c) a representative payee;

(d) a resident's next of kin; or

(e) a sponsoring agency.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Facility" or "long-term care facility" means a facility or part of a facility licensed under Title 50, chapter 5, to provide skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or personal care.

(5) "Long-term care ombudsman" means the individual appointed to fulfill the requirement of 42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(12) that the state provide an advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

(6) "Resident" means a person who lives in a long-term care facility.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 582, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 259, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-5-1104. Rights of long-term care facility residents. (1) The state adopts by reference for all long-term care facilities the rights for long-term care facility residents applied by the federal government to facilities that provide skilled nursing care or intermediate nursing care and participate in a medicaid or medicare program (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3(a) and 1396r(a), as implemented by regulation).

(2) In addition to the rights adopted under subsection (1), the state adopts for all residents of long-term care facilities the following rights:

(a) A resident or the resident's authorized representative must be informed by the facility at least 30 days in advance of any changes in the cost or availability of services, unless to do so is beyond the facility's control.

(b) Regardless of the source of payment, each resident or the resident's authorized representative is entitled, upon request, to receive and examine an explanation of the resident's monthly bill.

(c) Residents have the right to organize, maintain, and participate in resident advisory councils. The facility shall afford reasonable privacy and facility space for the meetings of the councils.

(d) A resident has the right to present a grievance on the resident's own behalf or that of others to the facility or the resident advisory council. The facility shall establish written procedures for receiving, handling, and informing residents or the resident advisory council of the outcome of any grievance presented.

(e) A resident has the right to ask a state agency or a resident advocate for assistance in resolving grievances, free from restraint, interference, or reprisal.

(f) During a resident's stay in a long-term care facility, the resident retains the prerogative to exercise decisionmaking rights in all aspects of the resident's health care, including placement and treatment issues such as medication, special diets, or other medical regimens.

(g) The resident's authorized representative must be notified in a prompt manner of any significant accident, unexplained absence, or significant change in the resident's health status.

(h) A resident has the right to be free from verbal, mental, and physical abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. Facility staff shall report to the department and the long-term care ombudsman any suspected incidents of abuse under the Montana Vulnerable Adult Prevention of Abuse Act, Title 52, chapter 3, part 8.

(i) Each resident has the right to privacy in the resident's room or portion of the room. If a resident is seeking privacy in the resident's room, staff members should make reasonable efforts to make their presence known when entering the room.

(j) In case of involuntary transfer or discharge, a resident has the right to reasonable advance notice to ensure an orderly transfer or discharge. Reasonable advance notice requires at least 21 days' written notification of any interfacility transfer or discharge except in cases of emergency or for medical reasons documented in the resident's medical record by the attending physician.

(k) If clothing is provided to the resident by the facility, it must be of reasonable fit.

(l) A resident has the right to reasonable safeguards for personal possessions brought to the facility. The facility shall provide a means for safeguarding the resident's small items of value in the resident's room or in another part of the facility where the resident must have reasonable access to the items.

(m) The resident has the right to have all losses or thefts of personal possessions promptly investigated by the facility. The results of the investigation must be reported to the affected resident.

(3) The administrator of the facility shall adopt whatever additional measures are necessary to implement the residents' rights listed in subsections (1) and (2) and meet any other requirements relating to residents' health and safety that are conditions of participation in a state or federal program of medical assistance.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 582, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 209, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-5-1105. Long-term care facility to adopt and post residents' rights. (1) The administrator of each long-term care facility shall:

(a) adopt a written statement of rights applicable to all residents of its facility, including as a minimum the rights listed in 50-5-1104;

(b) provide each resident, at the time of admission to the facility, a copy of the facility's statement of residents' rights, receipt of which the resident or the resident's authorized representative shall acknowledge in writing;

(c) provide each resident with a written statement of any change in residents' rights at the time the change is implemented, receipt of which the resident or the resident's authorized representative shall acknowledge in writing; and

(d) train and involve staff members in the implementation of residents' rights as expressed in the statement adopted by the facility.

(2) Each staff member shall affirm in writing that the member has read and understands the facility's statement of residents' rights.

(3) The administrator of the facility shall post in a conspicuous place visible to the public a copy of the facility's statement of residents' rights, presented in a format that can be read easily by the residents and by the public.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 582, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1815, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-5-1106. Resident's rights devolve to authorized representative. The rights and responsibilities listed in 50-5-1104 and 50-5-1105 devolve to the resident's authorized representative when the resident:

(1) exhibits a communication barrier;

(2) has been found by the resident's physician to be medically incapable of understanding these rights; or

(3) has been adjudicated incompetent by a district court.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 582, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1816, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-5-1107. Enforcement of residents' rights. The requirements of 50-5-1104 through 50-5-1106 are included in the minimum standards considered by the department in reviewing applications for license, as provided in 50-5-204.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 582, L. 1987.

Part 12
Safety Devices in Long-Term Care Facilities

50-5-1201. Use of safety devices — request and consent — allowed individuals — intent. (1) The following individuals may request the use of and provide informed consent for the use of certain safety devices aimed at ensuring the physical safety of the resident by reducing the risk of falls and injuries associated with a resident's medical symptom even if the resident cannot easily remove the device or the device restricts the resident's total freedom of movement:

(a) a resident;

(b) a family member of a resident who is unable to make decisions because the resident has a communication barrier or has been found by a physician to be medically incapable of granting informed consent, as provided in 50-5-1203;

(c) a guardian, as defined in 72-1-103; or

(d) a person granted the power of attorney for health care decisions.

(2) A concern for a resident's physical safety or a resident's fear of falling may provide the basis for a medical symptom. A safety device may not be used for the convenience of staff or for disciplinary purposes.

(3) This part is intended to provide residents and authorized or designated representatives with the authority to request and consent to the use of safety devices but is not intended to interfere with the right of licensed health care providers acting within their scope of practice to recommend and order treatments and services, including physical restraints, for residents in their care.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 2001.

50-5-1202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Long-term care facility" means a licensed facility that provides skilled nursing care or intermediate nursing care or that is an assisted living facility, as defined in 50-5-101.

(3) "Medical symptom" means an indication of a physical or psychological condition or of a physical or psychological need expressed by the patient.

(4) "Physician" includes an advanced practice registered nurse to the extent permitted by federal law.

(5) "Resident" means a person who lives in a long-term care facility.

(6) (a) "Safety devices" means side rails, tray tables, seatbelts, and other similar devices.

(b) The term does not include protective restraints as defined in 21 CFR 880.6760.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 54, L. 2003.

50-5-1203. Procedures — informed consent — physician involvement. (1) Upon receiving a request for use of a safety device, a long-term care facility shall inform the requestor of the alternatives and risks associated with the use of the safety device. The long-term care facility shall provide the requested safety device to the resident upon receipt of:

(a) a signed consent form authorizing its use and acknowledging receipt of specific information about available alternatives and risks; and

(b) a written order from the attending physician that specifies the circumstances under and the duration for which the safety device may be used and the medical symptoms that the safety device is intended to address.

(2) The requirements of subsection (1) do not apply if a side rail or other device is used only as an assistive device and does not restrict the resident's movement from bed or chair.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 347, L. 2001.

50-5-1204. Long-term care facility procedures. A long-term care facility that provides a safety device under 50-5-1203 shall:

(1) document that the procedures outlined in 50-5-1203 have been followed;

(2) monitor the use of the safety device in accordance with accepted standards of practice;

(3) reevaluate the resident's need for the safety device, no less than quarterly, in consultation with the resident, the resident's family, and the attending physician.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 347, L. 2001.

50-5-1205. Survey compliance and department enforcement — rulemaking authority. (1) The department is granted rulemaking authority for the purposes of implementing this part.

(2) When determining compliance with state and federal standards for the use of a safety device, the department is bound by the statements and determinations contained in the attending physician's order regarding medical symptoms. A written order from the attending physician that contains statements and determinations regarding medical symptoms is sufficient evidence of the medical necessity of the safety device.

(3) A long-term care facility may not be subject to fines, civil penalties, or other state or federal survey enforcement remedies solely as the result of allowing the use of a safety device as authorized in this part.

(4) This section does not preclude the department from taking action to protect the safety and health of the resident if there is clear and convincing evidence that:

(a) the use of the safety device has jeopardized the health and safety of the resident; and

(b) the long-term care facility has failed to take reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of the resident.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 347, L. 2001.

Part 13
Proxy Decisionmakers

Part Cross-References

Guardians of incapacitated persons, Title 72, ch. 5, part 3.

Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

50-5-1301. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult" means any person 18 years of age or older.

(2) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who is licensed under Title 37, chapter 8, to practice professional nursing in this state and who has fulfilled the requirements of the board of nursing pursuant to 37-8-202 and 37-8-409.

(3) "Attending health care provider" means the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant, whether selected by or assigned to a patient, who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(4) "Decisional capacity" means the ability to provide informed consent to or refuse medical treatment or the ability to make an informed health care decision as determined by a health care provider experienced in this type of assessment.

(5) "Health care facility" means a hospital, critical access hospital, rural emergency hospital, or facility providing skilled nursing care as those terms are defined in 50-5-101.

(6) "Health care provider" means any individual licensed or certified by the state to provide health care.

(7) "Interested person" means a patient's:

(a) spouse;

(b) parent;

(c) adult child, sibling, or grandchild; or

(d) close friend.

(8) "Medical proxy decisionmaker" means a physician or advanced practice registered nurse designated by the attending health care provider.

(9) "Physician" means an individual licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 3.

(10) "Physician assistant" means an individual licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 20.

(11) (a) "Lay proxy decisionmaker" means an interested person selected pursuant to this part authorized to make medical decisions and discharge and transfer dispositions for a patient who lacks decisional capacity.

(b) The term does not include the patient's attending health care provider.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 88, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 13, Ch. 88, L. 2023, in definition of physician assistant at end deleted "whose duties and delegation agreement authorizes the individual to undertake the activities allowed under this part"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 7, Ch. 602, L. 2023, in definition of health care facility near middle inserted "rural emergency hospital"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

50-5-1302. Determination of decisional capacity — use of proxy decisionmaker. (1) An attending health care provider may determine that an adult patient lacks decisional capacity related to medical treatment. The determination must be documented in the patient's medical record.

(2) (a) The attending health care provider shall make specific findings related to the cause, nature, and projected duration of the patient's lack of decisional capacity. The findings must be included in the patient's medical record.

(b) Health care providers must use evidence-based methodologies for determining decisionmaking capacity. The method used to determine decisionmaking capacity may be selected in collaboration with a medical ethics committee.

(c) Patients with chronic cognitive disabilities may require assessment by health care providers familiar with the patient's specific disability. If available, health care providers familiar with the patient's chronic cognitive disability must be consulted to assess decisionmaking capacity.

(d) Patients for whom English is a second language must be assessed by a health care provider in the presence of an interpreter who is fluent in the patient's primary language. Patients who communicate using American sign language must be assessed in the presence of an interpreter fluent in American sign language.

(3) A health care provider or health care facility may rely in good faith upon the medical treatment decision of a proxy decisionmaker selected or appointed in accordance with this part if an adult patient's attending health care provider determines that the patient lacks decisional capacity and the patient does not have:

(a) a guardian with medical decisionmaking authority;

(b) an agent appointed in a medical durable power of attorney; or

(c) any other known person with the legal authority to provide consent or refusal of medical treatment on the patient's behalf.

(4) Guardianship proceedings may be initiated by the health care facility in the absence of family or interested parties at the same time that a proxy decisionmaker is selected to meet the patient's current decisional needs. If a guardian is appointed, the guardian shall assume the proxy decisionmaker role.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1303. Notification to interested persons — selection of proxy decisionmaker. (1) Upon a determination that an adult patient lacks decisional capacity, an attending health care provider or the provider's designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the patient of:

(a) the determination that the patient lacks decisional capacity; and

(b) the identity of a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker selected or appointed pursuant to this part.

(2) An attending health care provider or the provider's designee shall make reasonable efforts to locate and notify as many interested persons as practicable to inform them of the patient's lack of decisional capacity and ask that a lay proxy decisionmaker be selected for the patient.

(3) The attending health care provider may rely on interested persons contacted by the provider or the provider's designee to notify other family members or interested persons.

(4) Interested persons who are informed of the patient's lack of decisional capacity shall make reasonable efforts to reach a consensus as to who among them will make medical treatment decisions on behalf of the patient. In selecting a lay proxy decisionmaker, the interested persons should consider which proposed decisionmaker:

(a) has a close relationship with the patient; and

(b) is most likely to have current knowledge of the patient's wishes regarding medical treatment.

(5) Nothing in this section precludes an interested person from initiating a guardianship proceeding for any reason at any time.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1304. Appointment of certain health care providers as medical proxy decisionmaker — limitations — termination. (1) An attending health care provider may designate another willing physician or advanced practice registered nurse to make health care treatment decisions as a patient's proxy decisionmaker if:

(a) after making reasonable efforts, the attending health care provider or the provider's designee is unable to locate any persons with authority to make medical decisions for the patient or no interested person with authority to make medical decisions for the patient is willing and able to serve as lay proxy decisionmaker;

(b) the attending health care provider has determined, with the assistance of any relevant specialists or interpreters, the patient's lack of decisional capacity;

(c) the attending health care provider's assessment of lack of decisional capacity has been confirmed by another health care provider;

(d) the attending health care provider or the provider's designee has consulted with and obtained a consensus on the proxy designation with the medical ethics committee of the health care facility where the patient is receiving care; and

(e) the identity of the physician or advanced practice registered nurse designated as proxy decisionmaker is documented in the medical record.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(d), if the health care facility does not have a medical ethics committee, the facility may refer the attending health care provider or the provider's designee to a medical ethics committee at another health care facility or obtain consensus with the health care facility's chaplain.

(3) The authority of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse serving as a proxy decisionmaker terminates when:

(a) an interested person is willing to serve as a lay proxy decisionmaker;

(b) a family member is willing to serve as a decisionmaker;

(c) a guardian is appointed for the patient;

(d) the patient regains decisional capacity;

(e) the proxy decisionmaker decides to terminate the decisionmaker's role; or

(f) the patient is transferred or discharged from the health care facility, if any, where the patient is receiving care unless the proxy decisionmaker expresses an intention to continue in the role.

(4) The attending health care provider shall document in the patient's medical record the reason for termination of the authority of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse serving as a proxy decisionmaker.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1305. Treatment guidelines when health care providers serve as proxy decisionmakers. (1) The attending health care provider and a health care provider appointed pursuant to 50-5-1304 to serve as a medical proxy decisionmaker shall adhere to the following guidelines for proxy decisionmaking:

(a) for routine treatments and procedures that are low-risk and within broadly accepted standards of medical practice, the attending health care provider may make health care treatment decisions;

(b) for treatment involving anesthesia, invasive procedures, significant risk of complications, or otherwise requiring written, informed consent, the attending health care provider shall obtain the written consent of the medical proxy decisionmaker;

(c) for end-of-life treatment that is nonbeneficial and involves withholding or withdrawing specific medical treatments, the attending health care provider shall obtain:

(i) an independent concurring opinion from a physician or advanced practice registered nurse other than the medical proxy decisionmaker;

(ii) a consensus with the medical ethics committee, if available; and

(iii) a consensus with the health care facility's chaplain if a medical ethics committee is not available.

(2) Artificial nourishment and hydration may be withheld or withdrawn from a patient upon a decision of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse serving as a medical proxy decisionmaker only when the attending health care provider and an independent physician trained in neurology or neurosurgery certify in the patient's medical record that the provision

or continuation of artificial nourishment or hydration cannot reasonably be expected to prolong life, would be excessively burdensome for the patient, or would cause the patient significant physical discomfort, such as from complications from the procedures used.

(3) (a) Nothing in this part may be construed as condoning, authorizing, or approving euthanasia or mercy killing.

(b) Nothing in this part may be construed as permitting an affirmative or deliberate act to end a person's life except to permit natural death.

(4) When a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker has not been appointed and the attending health care provider determines that a patient requires end-of-life treatment that includes artificial nourishment and hydration, before a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker may be appointed the attending health care provider or health care facility shall petition the court to have a temporary guardian appointed as provided in 72-5-317. If the petition to have a temporary guardian appointed is not timely or successful considering the exigencies of the situation, a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker may be appointed.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1306. Medical ethics committee assistance in decisions on withholding or withdrawing treatment. The medical ethics committee of a health care facility shall assist a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker upon request if the lay or medical proxy decisionmaker is considering or has made a decision to withhold or withdraw medical treatment. If the health care facility treating the patient does not have a medical ethics committee, the facility may provide an outside referral for assistance or consultation.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1307. Redetermination of authority of lay or medical proxy decisionmaker. The attending health care provider of a patient for whom a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker has been named shall reexamine the patient and determine whether the patient has regained decisional capacity if the patient or an interested person, guardian, attending health care provider, or the lay or medical proxy decisionmaker believes the patient has regained decisional capacity. The attending health care provider shall enter the determination and the basis for the determination into the patient's medical record and shall notify the patient, the lay or medical proxy decisionmaker, and the person who requested the redetermination of decisional capacity, if the request was made by someone other than the patient or proxy decisionmaker.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

50-5-1308. Immunity. (1) An attending health care provider, provider's designee, or health care facility that makes a reasonable attempt to locate and communicate with a proxy decisionmaker is not subject to civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction solely for the attempt to locate and communicate with the person.

(2) A member of a health care facility medical ethics committee is not subject to civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction solely for taking part in decisions under this part.

(3) A physician or advanced practice registered nurse acting in good faith as a proxy decisionmaker in accordance with 50-5-1304 and 50-5-1305 is not subject to civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction solely for acting as a medical proxy decisionmaker. An attending health care provider or the provider's designee remains responsible for negligent acts or omissions in providing care to a patient for whom a lay or medical proxy decisionmaker has been named.

(4) The immunity provided by this section does not apply to:

(a) a health care facility that is owned or operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state;

(b) members of a medical ethics committee for a health care facility that is owned or operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state; or

(c) health care providers who are employed by the state or a political subdivision of the state.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 2017.

Part 14
Patient Visitation Rights

Part Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This part is effective October 1, 2023.

50-5-1401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Patient Visitation Rights Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 2023.**

50-5-1402. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the legislature that:
(1) preservation of relationships between a patient and the patient's family members and associates is essential to the health and well-being of the patient; and
(2) a patient's need for visitation is a right that may not be superseded by other government objectives, except as provided in 50-5-1404.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 406, L. 2023.**

50-5-1403. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:
(1) "Care facility" means a hospice, hospital, or long-term care facility.
(2) "Hospice" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.
(3) "Hospital" means a hospital or critical access hospital as those terms are defined in 50-5-101.
(4) "Long-term care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.
(5) "Patient" means an individual receiving services from a care facility.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 406, L. 2023.**

50-5-1404. Patient visitation rights. (1) A patient has a right to a minimum of 2 hours of in-person visitation a day, which, subject to clinical and safety restrictions, may not be limited to one visitor a day, restricted, terminated, suspended, or waived by a care facility, the department of public health and human services, or the governor, including during a state of emergency or disaster declared by the governor.
(2) A care facility may not:
(a) require a patient to waive the visitation rights specified in this section; or
(b) subject to 49-2-312 and 49-2-313, impose a restriction on visitation based on a visitor's vaccination status or require a visitor to receive a vaccination.
(3) A care facility may, consistent with the precautions required to be taken by staff and other personnel:
(a) require a visitor to submit to health screenings necessary to prevent the spread of infectious diseases;
(b) restrict a visitor who does not pass health screening requirements;
(c) require a visitor to adhere to infection control procedures, including wearing personal protective equipment; and
(d) limit the number of persons in a room at one time pursuant to occupancy laws.
(4) A care facility shall post in a conspicuous place on the premises of the care facility informational materials developed by the department of public health and human services explaining the rights specified in this section.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 406, L. 2023.**

CHAPTER 6
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Part 4 — State Trauma Care System

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50-6-402. Department duties — rules.
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Part 5 — Automated External Defibrillator Programs

50-6-501. Definitions.
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50-6-506. Exemptions.

Chapter Cross-References

Good Samaritan law, 27-1-714, 41-1-405.
Validity of consent for medical treatment, Title 41, ch. 1, part 4.

Part 1
Development of Program

50-6-101. Legislative purpose. (1) The public welfare requires the providing of assistance and encouragement for the development of an emergency care system for Montanans who each year are dying and suffering permanent disabilities needlessly because of inadequate medical services. The repeated loss of persons who die unnecessarily because necessary life-support personnel and equipment are not available to victims of accidents and sudden illness is a tragedy that can and must be eliminated.

(2) Community-integrated health care is necessary to improve the health of Montana citizens, to prevent illness and injury, to reduce the incidence of emergency calls and hospital emergency department visits made for the purpose of obtaining nonemergency, nonurgent medical care or services, and to provide community outreach, health education, and referral services within communities.

(3) The development of an emergency medical services program and community-integrated health care is in the interest of the social well-being and health and safety of the state and all of its people who require emergency and community-integrated medical care.

History: En. 69-7001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

50-6-102. Department to establish and administer program. The department of public health and human services shall establish and administer an emergency medical services program.

History: En. 69-7002 by Sec. 2, Ch. 311, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7002(part); amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 260, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

50-6-103. Powers of department. (1) The department of public health and human services is authorized to confer and cooperate with any other persons, organizations, and governmental agencies that have an interest in the emergency medical services program and community-integrated health care.

(2) The department is authorized to accept, receive, expend, and administer any funds that are now available or that may be donated, granted, or appropriated to the department.

(3) The department may, after consultation with the trauma care committee, the Montana committee on trauma of the American college of surgeons, the Montana hospital association, and the Montana medical association, adopt rules necessary to implement part 4 of this chapter.

(4) The department shall continually assess and, as needed, revise the functions and components that it regulates to improve the quality of emergency medical services and to ensure that the emergency medical services program adapts to the changing community-integrated health care needs of the citizens of Montana.

(5) The department shall collaborate with other components of the health care system to fully integrate the emergency medical services program into the overall health care system.

(6) As part of the collaboration under subsection (5), the department shall provide guidance to ambulance services and nontransporting medical units regarding their choice whether or not to engage in community-integrated health care beyond offering emergency medical services.

History: En. 69-7002 by Sec. 2, Ch. 311, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7002(part); amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 261, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 579, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

50-6-104. Interdepartmental cooperation required. The department of public health and human services, the board of medical examiners, and other interested departments or divisions shall develop in writing a mutually agreeable plan of cooperation so that governmental efforts are not duplicated and governmental resources are applied on a reasonable priority basis.

History: En. 69-7002 by Sec. 2, Ch. 311, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7002(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 262, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

50-6-105. Medical care standards — review process. (1) The board of medical examiners shall establish patient care standards for:

(a) out-of-hospital emergency medical treatment and interfacility transportation; and

(b) community-integrated health care.

(2) (a) Complaints involving out-of-hospital care, interfacility care, community-integrated health care, patient care within a health care facility, or the operation of an emergency medical service, as defined in 50-6-302, must be filed with the board and reviewed by a screening panel pursuant to 37-1-307.

(b) If a complaint is initially filed with the department of public health and human services, the department shall refer the complaint to the board for review by a screening panel.

(3) (a) When a complaint involves the operation or condition of an emergency medical service, the screening panel shall refer the complaint to the department for investigation as provided in 50-6-323.

(b) When a complaint involves patient care provided by an emergency care provider, the screening panel shall:

(i) refer the complaint to the board for investigation as provided in 37-1-308 and 50-6-203; and

(ii) forward to the department the complaint and the results of the screening panel's initial review as soon as the review is completed.

(c) When a complaint involves a combination of patient care and emergency medical service matters, the screening panel shall refer the complaint to both the department and the board for matters that fall within the jurisdiction of each entity.

(4) For a complaint involving patient care, the board shall:

(a) immediately share with the department any information indicating:

(i) a potential violation of department rules; or

(ii) that the existing policies or practices of an emergency medical service may be jeopardizing patient care; and

(b) notify the department when:

(i) a sanction is imposed on an emergency care provider; or

(ii) the complaint is resolved.

(5) For a complaint involving an emergency medical service, the department shall:

(a) immediately share with the board any information indicating:

(i) a potential violation of board rules; or

(ii) that the practices of an emergency care provider may be jeopardizing patient care; and

(b) notify the board when:

(i) a sanction is imposed on an emergency medical service; or

(ii) the complaint is resolved.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 220, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

Part 2
Emergency Care Providers

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation — regulation of fees, 39-71-704.

Report of fetal death that occurs outside licensed medical facility, 46-4-114.

50-6-201. Legislative findings — duty of board. (1) The legislature finds and declares that a program for emergency care providers is required in order to provide the safest and most efficient delivery of emergency and community-integrated health care.

(2) The legislature further finds that prompt and efficient emergency medical care of the sick and injured at the scene and during transport to a health care facility is important in reducing the mortality and morbidity rate during the first critical minutes immediately after an accident or the onset of an emergent condition.

(3) The legislature further finds that emergency care providers can help fill gaps in the state's health care system, particularly in rural communities with limited health care services and providers, by providing:

(a) community-integrated health care to prevent illness and injury; and

(b) patient care within a health care facility that is appropriate to a patient's needs and the emergency care provider's training.

(4) The board has a duty to ensure that emergency care providers are properly licensed and provide proper treatment to patients in their care.

History: En. 69-7003 by Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 220, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 294, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 294, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

50-6-202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the Montana state board of medical examiners provided for in 2-15-1731.

(2) "Emergency care provider" means a person licensed by the board, including but not limited to an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic. An emergency care provider with an endorsement may provide community-integrated health care.

(3) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(4) "Volunteer emergency care provider" means an individual who is licensed pursuant to this part and provides out-of-hospital, emergency medical, or community-integrated health care, patient care within a health care facility, or interfacility transport:

(a) on the days and at the times of the day chosen by the individual; and

(b) for an emergency medical service other than:

(i) a private ambulance company unless the care is provided without compensation and outside of the individual's regular work schedule; or

(ii) a private business or a public agency, as defined in 7-1-4121, that employs the individual on a regular basis with a regular, hourly wage to provide emergency medical or community-integrated health care as part of the individual's job duties.

History: En. 69-7004 by Sec. 2, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7004; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 483, L. 2001; (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 220, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

Cross-References

Board of Medical Examiners, Title 37, ch. 3, part 2.

50-6-203. Rules. (1) The board, after consultation with the department of public health and human services and other appropriate departments, associations, and organizations, shall adopt rules of the board implementing this part, including but not limited to:

(a) training and licensure of emergency care providers;

(b) the administration of drugs by emergency care providers; and

(c) the handling of complaints involving patient care provided by emergency care providers.

(2) The board may, by rule, establish various levels of emergency care provider licensure and shall specify for each level the training requirements, acts allowed, relicensure requirements, and any other requirements regarding the training, performance, or licensure of that level of emergency care provider that it considers necessary, subject to the provisions of 37-1-138.

History: En. 69-7008 by Sec. 6, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7008; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 263, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 271, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.
Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

50-6-204. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 377, L. 1991.

History: En. 69-7005 by Sec. 3, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7005.

50-6-205. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 377, L. 1991.

History: En. 69-7006, 69-7007 by Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7006, 69-7007.

50-6-206. Consent. An emergency care provider may not be subject to civil liability for failure to obtain consent in performing acts as authorized in this part to any individual regardless of age when the patient is unable to give consent and there is no other person present legally authorized to consent, provided that the acts are in good faith and without knowledge of facts negating consent.

History: En. 69-7009 by Sec. 7, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7009; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

Cross-References
Good Samaritan law, 27-1-714, 41-1-405.

50-6-207. Construction. This part may not be construed to detract from the powers granted to the department of public health and human services to regulate emergency medical services provided for in part 3 of this chapter.

History: En. 69-7010 by Sec. 8, Ch. 84, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7010; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 377, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 264, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-6-208 and 50-6-209 reserved.

50-6-210. Provision of patient care in health care facility. An emergency care provider may provide patient care in a health care facility when the care is approved by the health care facility, provided under online medical direction as defined in 50-6-302, and within the scope of the emergency care provider's licensure level.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 294, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 26, 2023.

Part 3
Ambulance Service Licensing

Part Cross-References
Establishment of ambulance services by county, city, or town, Title 7, ch. 34, part 1.
Balance billing information — notification to ambulance companies, 30-14-2602.
Discrimination in licensing prohibited, 49-3-204.

50-6-301. Findings. The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) the public welfare requires the establishment of minimum uniform standards for the operation of emergency medical services;

(2) the control, inspection, and regulation of persons providing emergency medical services or community-integrated health care is necessary to prevent or eliminate improper care that may endanger the health of the public; and

(3) the regulation of emergency medical services is in the interest of the social well-being and the health and safety of the state and all its people.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3604; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

50-6-302. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aircraft" has the meaning provided in 67-1-101. The term includes any fixed-wing airplane or helicopter.

(2) (a) "Ambulance" means a privately or publicly owned motor vehicle or aircraft that is maintained and used for the transportation of patients.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a motor vehicle or aircraft owned by or operated under the direct control of the United States; or

(ii) air transportation services, such as charter or fixed-based operators, that are regulated by the federal aviation administration and that offer no special medical services or provide only transportation to patients or persons at the direction or under the supervision of an independent physician.

(3) "Board" means the Montana state board of medical examiners provided for in 2-15-1731.

(4) "Community-integrated health care" means the provision of out-of-hospital medical services that an emergency care provider with an endorsement may provide as determined by board rule.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Emergency medical service" means an out-of-hospital health care treatment service or interfacility emergency medical transportation provided by an ambulance or nontransporting medical unit that is licensed by the department to provide out-of-hospital health care treatment services or interfacility emergency medical transportation, including community-integrated health care.

(7) "Nonemergency ambulance transport" means the use of an ambulance to transport a patient between health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, including federal facilities, when the patient's medical condition requires special transportation considerations, supervision, or handling but does not indicate a need for medical treatment during transit or for emergency medical treatment upon arrival at the receiving health care facility.

(8) "Nontransporting medical unit" means an aggregate of persons who are organized to respond to a call for emergency medical service and to treat a patient until the arrival of an ambulance. Nontransporting medical units provide any one of varying types and levels of service defined by department rule but may not transport patients.

(9) "Offline medical direction" means the function of a board-licensed physician or physician assistant in providing:

(a) medical oversight and supervision for an emergency medical service or an emergency care provider; and

(b) review of patient care techniques, emergency medical service procedures, and quality of care.

(10) "Online medical direction" means the function of a board-licensed physician or physician assistant or the function of a designee of the physician or physician assistant in providing direction, advice, or orders to an emergency care provider for interfacility emergency medical transportation, out-of-hospital, emergency medical, or community-integrated health care, or patient care within a health care facility as identified in a plan for offline medical direction.

(11) (a) "Patient" means an individual who is sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

(b) Unless otherwise defined by rule for community-integrated health care, the term does not include an individual who is nonambulatory and who needs transportation assistance solely because that individual is confined to a wheelchair as the individual's usual means of mobility.

(12) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, group of individuals acting together for a common purpose, or organization of any kind, including a governmental agency other than the United States.

(13) "Volunteer emergency care provider" means an individual who is licensed pursuant to Title 50, chapter 6, part 2, and provides out-of-hospital, emergency medical, or community-integrated health care, patient care within a health care facility, or interfacility emergency medical transportation:

(a) on the days and at the times of the day chosen by the individual; and

(b) for an emergency medical service other than:

(i) a private ambulance company, unless the care is provided without compensation and outside of the individual's regular work schedule; or

(ii) a private business or a public agency, as defined in 7-1-4121, that employs the individual on a regular basis with a regular, hourly wage to provide emergency medical or community-integrated health care as part of the individual's job duties.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3605; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 265, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 220, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 294, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 294, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

50-6-303. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3609(1), (2).

50-6-304. Cooperative agreements — gifts, grants, and donations. (1) The department may enter into cooperative agreements with any of the state agencies or political subdivisions for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part.

(2) The department may accept and administer any gift, grant, or donation of funds to carry out the purposes of this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3609(3); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

50-6-305. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3609(4).

50-6-306. License required. (1) A person may not conduct or operate an emergency medical service without first obtaining a license from the department. A separate license is required for each type and level of service.

(2) Applications for a license must be made in writing to the department on forms specified by the department.

(3) Each license must be issued for a specific term not to exceed 2 years. Renewal may be obtained by paying the required license fee and demonstrating compliance with department rules.

(4) The license is not transferable.

(5) The department shall notify an ambulance service at the time of licensing or licensing renewal of the reporting limitation of 30-14-2602.

History: En. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 387, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3606, 69-3607(2); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 2017.

50-6-307. License fee. (1) There must be paid to the department, with each application for a license or for renewal of a license, a license fee of $35.

(2) The department shall deposit fees with the state treasurer to the credit of the state general fund.

(3) Payment of the license fee stipulated in this part must be accepted in lieu of any and all existing state fees and charges for like purposes or intent which may be existent prior to the adoption of this part.

History: En. Secs. 4, 10, Ch. 387, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3607(1), 69-3613; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.

50-6-308. Cancellation of license. The department may cancel a license if it finds that the licensee has:

(1) violated any provision of this part or any rule of the department or order of the department; and

(2) failed or refused to remedy or correct the violation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 266, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-6-309. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(part).

50-6-310. Notice and hearing required. (1) The department may not deny or cancel a license without:

(a) delivery to the applicant or licensee of a written statement of the grounds for the denial or cancellation or the charge involved;

(b) an opportunity to answer at a hearing before the department to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled.

(2) The licensee shall make written request to the department for a hearing within 10 days after notice of the grounds or charges has been received.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(part); amd. Sec. 267, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-6-311. Return of license for destruction or deletion. On cancellation of a license, the license certificate shall be returned to the department for destruction or deletion as the department may direct in its notice of cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(3).

50-6-312. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 387, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(part).

50-6-313. Inspections. (1) The department shall make necessary investigations and inspections for enforcement of this part.

(2) The department shall make regular inspections as the rules of the department may direct and special inspections that it considers necessary.

(3) The department has free access at all reasonable hours to the place of business of any person operating an emergency medical service in order to make necessary inspections. These inspections may include the inspection of any equipment or records pertaining to the activities of the emergency medical service.

(4) A person may not refuse entry or access to an authorized representative of the department who presents appropriate credentials and requests entry for the purpose of conducting an inspection necessitated under this section. A person may not obstruct, hamper, or interfere with an inspection that is properly conducted pursuant to this section.

(5) Upon request, the owner or operator of an emergency medical service must receive a report stating all facts that relate to the owner's or operator's compliance with the provisions of this part as determined by the department, based upon its inspection.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3610; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1817, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-6-314. Authority of department to compel and take testimony. In any proceeding under this part, the department may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, summon witnesses, and take testimony of any person within the state.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 387, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3611; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 268, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Subpoenas and enforcement — compelling testimony, 2-4-104.

50-6-315. County attorney to prosecute violations. When the department furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state, the county attorney shall prosecute any person violating this part or any rule of the department or order issued by the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3608(4); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 269, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-6-316. Criminal and civil penalties. (1) Any person violating any provision of this part or any rule of the department or order issued by the department is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense, not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense, and for third and subsequent offenses, not less than $200 or more than $500 or imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed 90 days.

(2) A person who violates any provision of this part or any rule of the department or order issued by the department is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(3) An action commenced under subsections (2) through (6) does not bar administrative enforcement of this part as provided in 50-6-327 or an injunction as provided in 50-6-326.

(4) If the department has reason to believe that a person has violated any provision of this part or any rule of the department or order issued by the department, it shall bring an action in the name of the state against the person to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalties as provided in subsection (2).

(5) Any civil penalty collected under subsections (2) through (6) is in lieu of the criminal penalty provided for in subsection (1).

(6) All penalties collected under subsections (2) through (5) must be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 387, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3612; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 387, L. 1989; (2) thru (6)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 270, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-6-317. Liability protection. (1) A physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse licensed under the laws of this state who provides online medical direction to a member of an emergency medical service without compensation or for compensation not exceeding $5,000 in any 12-month period and whose professional practice is not primarily in an emergency or trauma room or ward is not liable for civil damages for an injury resulting from the instructions, except damages for an injury resulting from the gross negligence of the physician, physician assistant, or nurse, if the instructions given by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse are:

(a) consistent with the protocols and the offline medical direction plan approved by the department in licensing the emergency medical service; and

(b) consistent with the level of licensure of the emergency medical services personnel instructed by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse.

(2) An individual who volunteers or who is reimbursed $5,000 or less in any 12-month period for providing offline medical direction is not liable for civil damages for an injury resulting from the performance of the individual's offline medical direction duties, except damages for an injury resulting from the gross negligence of the individual.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1818, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 3.

Licensing of nurses, Title 37, ch. 8, part 4.

50-6-318 and 50-6-319 reserved.

50-6-320. Private air ambulance service — findings — exemptions from insurance code. (1) The legislature finds that there is a need to assist Montana consumers with regard to the availability and affordability of air ambulance service.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a private air ambulance service that solicits membership subscriptions, accepts membership applications, charges membership fees, and provides air ambulance services to subscription members and designated members of their households is not an insurer as defined in 33-1-201, a health carrier as defined in 33-36-103, a health service corporation as defined in 33-30-101, or a health maintenance organization as defined in 33-31-102 if the private air ambulance service:

(a) is licensed in accordance with 50-6-306;

(b) has been in operation in Montana for at least 2 years; and

(c) has submitted evidence of its compliance with this section to the department.

(3) The provisions of Title 33 prescribed in 33-2-2212 apply to a private air ambulance service that offers a membership program covering out-of-pocket expenses in excess of deductibles, copays, and coinsurance incurred for out-of-network services using the private air ambulance service or to private air ambulance services that are out-of-network and with which the membership program has reciprocity.

(4) A private air ambulance service membership program must have reciprocity agreements with all other air ambulance service providers in Montana with air ambulance service membership programs to ensure maximum geographic coverage within the state for the subscribers to the program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 210, L. 2017.

50-6-321 reserved.

50-6-322. Staffing — nonemergency ambulance transports — transports in rural areas. An emergency medical service that is staffed primarily by volunteer emergency care providers may staff an ambulance with one emergency care provider licensed at an emergency medical technician-basic level or higher and one driver trained in the operation of emergency vehicles for the following types of responses:

(1) nonemergency ambulance transports;

(2) emergency medical service provided by an ambulance company located in a county with a population of fewer than 20,000 residents; and

(3) emergency medical service provided by an ambulance company located in a county with a population of 20,000 residents or more if the ambulance company is transporting a patient from a community within that county that has a population of 1,500 residents or less to the nearest health care facility that is able to meet the patient's medical needs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 354, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

50-6-323. Powers and duties of department. (1) The department has general authority to supervise and regulate emergency medical services in Montana.

(2) Upon referral by a screening panel pursuant to 50-6-105, the department shall review and may investigate complaints relating to the operation of any emergency medical service.

(3) In investigating a complaint, the department may review:

(a) the type and condition of equipment and procedures used by an emergency medical service to provide care at the scene during prehospital or interfacility transportation or in other out-of-hospital care settings;

(b) the condition of any vehicle or aircraft used as an ambulance;

(c) general performance by an emergency medical service; and

(d) the results of any investigation conducted by the board concerning patient care by an emergency care provider who was, at the time of the complaint, providing care through the emergency medical service that is the subject of a complaint under investigation by the department.

(4) Upon completion of an investigation as provided in subsection (3), the department shall take appropriate action, including sharing information regarding complaints with the board as provided in 50-6-105 and initiating any necessary legal proceedings as authorized under this part.

(5) In order to carry out the provisions of this part, the department shall prescribe and enforce rules for emergency medical services. Rules of the department may include but are not limited to the following:

(a) the classification and identification of specific types and levels of interfacility medical transportation or out-of-hospital treatment services;

(b) procedures for issuing, denying, renewing, and canceling licenses issued under this part;

(c) minimum licensing standards for each type and level of service, including requirements for personnel, offline medical direction, online medical direction, maintenance, equipment, reporting, recordkeeping, sanitation, and minimum insurance coverage as determined appropriate by the department; and

(d) other requirements necessary and appropriate to ensure the quality, safety, and proper operation and administration of emergency medical services.

(6) A rule adopted pursuant to this section must comply with Title 2, chapter 4.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 150, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4., part 3.

50-6-324. Advisory committee. (1) The department may establish an advisory committee to assist in making determinations regarding:

(a) a request for waiver of licensing requirements as provided in 50-6-325;

(b) the resolution of a complaint as described in 50-6-323; and

(c) issuance of an order authorized under this part.

(2) The advisory committee must be established pursuant to rules adopted by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 271, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

50-6-325. Waiver of licensing requirements. (1) The department may waive any licensing requirements under this part upon submission and approval of a written application for waiver by a person subject to licensing under this part.

(2) The department may waive a licensing requirement if the person provides sufficient justification to allow a finding by the department that:

(a) the waiver is necessary to avoid significant financial or other hardship; and

(b) granting the waiver would not jeopardize patient care or the public health and safety.

(3) A waiver must be issued on a temporary basis, not exceeding 6 months, and may be renewed by the department upon submission and approval of an additional application for waiver of licensing requirements.

(4) A waiver granted by the department may be revoked for good cause after notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the department have been provided to the person affected by the department's action.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 272, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

50-6-326. Injunction to require compliance. (1) The department may seek an injunction from an appropriate district court to require compliance with this part or to require compliance with a rule of the department or an order issued by the department. The court to which the department applies for an injunction may issue a temporary restraining order if there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegations of the department are true.

(2) An action for injunctive relief initiated by the department pursuant to subsection (1) may be commenced in the district court of the county in which the defendant is located, resides, or is doing business. If the defendant cannot be located in Montana, the action may be commenced in the county where the violation is alleged to occur or have occurred, and the court has jurisdiction to restrain the violation and require compliance.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 273, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-6-327. Administrative enforcement. (1) If the department believes that there is a violation of this part or a violation of a rule of the department, it may serve notice of the violation upon the alleged violator or the alleged violator's agent. Service of notice must be by certified mail and is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) Notice required under subsection (1) must:

(a) specify the provision of this part or the rule alleged to be violated;

(b) contain a statement of the facts alleged to constitute a violation; and

(c) include an order that the alleged violator take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time as stated in the order. The order may include corrective action, such as decertification of a specific vehicle or aircraft from use as an ambulance or restriction on the use of a specific individual or type of or level of service in providing emergency medical service.

(3) An order issued pursuant to subsection (2) becomes final unless the person named in the order requests a hearing before the department. The request for a hearing must be made in writing to the department at least 30 days after the date of service of notice of an alleged violation. On receipt of the request, the department shall schedule a date for a hearing.

(4) If, after a hearing, the department finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the corrective action order. An order issued by the department after hearing may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for corrective action. If, after a hearing, the department finds a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the corrective action order.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 387, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 274, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

Part 4
State Trauma Care System

50-6-401. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 22.

(2) "Emergency medical service" means an emergency medical service as defined by 50-6-302.

(3) "Health care facility" or "facility" means a hospital, critical access hospital, or medical assistance facility as defined in 50-5-101.

(4) "Hospital trauma register" means patient-specific trauma data that is maintained by a health care facility, in a format prescribed by department rule, and that has the primary purpose of facilitating peer review and quality improvement at the health care facility.

(5) "Quality improvement" means the process of defining trauma care system performance standards, collecting data against which the standards may be applied, using the data to determine compliance with the standards, and using the data and compliance information in a nonpunitive manner, including peer review, that will continuously improve performance and facilitate compliance with the standards.

(6) "State trauma register" means trauma data relating to a specific patient or health care facility that is maintained by the department in an electronic format and that has the primary purpose of facilitating peer review and quality improvement for a health care facility or a trauma care system.

(7) "Trauma" means a severe, abrupt injury to the human body that is caused by mechanical, environmental, thermal, or other physical force.

(8) "Trauma care committee" means the trauma care committee created in 2-15-2216.

(9) "Trauma care system" means a state or regional system for the prevention of trauma and the provision of optimal medical care to trauma victims that includes both provision of appropriate health care services and provision of emergency medical care, equipment, and personnel for effective and coordinated prehospital, hospital, interhospital, and rehabilitative care for trauma patients.

(10) "Trauma facility" means a health care facility designated by the department pursuant to 50-6-410 as providing a specialized program in trauma care with appropriately trained personnel, equipment, and other facility resources that are specifically organized to provide optimal care to a trauma patient at the facility.

(11) "Trauma region" means a geographic area, designated by department rule pursuant to 50-6-402, within which trauma services are coordinated and evaluated through a regional trauma care system.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 579, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 192, L. 2001.

50-6-402. Department duties — rules. (1) The department shall plan, coordinate, implement, and administer a statewide trauma care system that involves all health care facilities and emergency medical services within the state. The department shall also develop and adopt a statewide trauma care system plan and a state trauma register.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to:

(a) establish and coordinate the statewide trauma care system, including rules that establish:

(i) various levels of trauma facilities and the standards each facility is required to meet concerning personnel, equipment, resources, data collection, and organizational capabilities;

(ii) procedures for, standards for, and the duration of designation and revocation of designation of a trauma facility, including application procedures, site survey procedures, complaint investigation, and emergency suspension of designation;

(iii) operational procedures and criteria for the regional trauma advisory committees;

(iv) prehospital emergency medical services triage and treatment protocols for trauma patients;

(v) triage and treatment protocols for the transfer of injured persons between health care facilities;

(vi) requirements for collection and release of trauma register data;

(vii) quality improvement standards for emergency medical services and trauma care facilities; and

(viii) the duties, responsibilities, and functions of the trauma care committee created by 2-15-2216 and the regional trauma care advisory committees created pursuant to 50-6-411;

(b) designate trauma regions throughout Montana, taking into consideration geographic distance from available trauma care, transportation modalities available, population location and density, health care facility resources, historical patterns of patient referral, and other considerations relevant to optimum provision of emergency medical care;

(c) establish the procedure to be followed by a health care facility to appeal to the department a decision by the department pursuant to 50-6-410 affecting the facility's designation as a trauma facility;

(d) specify the information that must be submitted to the department, including information from health care facilities, for statistical evaluation of the state and regional trauma care systems, planning prevention programs, assessing trauma-related educational priorities, and determining how trauma facilities and emergency medical services may comply with protocols and standards adopted by the department; and

(e) establish the electronic format and other standards that a health care facility trauma data system is required to meet in order to qualify as a hospital trauma register.

(3) The department shall submit a report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 concerning the effectiveness of the trauma care system established under this part.

(4) This part does not restrict any other provisions of law allowing or requiring a health care facility or health care provider to provide health care services.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 579, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Health care information, Title 50, ch. 16.

50-6-403. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 579, L. 1995.**

50-6-404. Duties of trauma care committee. The trauma care committee provided for in 2-15-2216 shall:

(1) provide recommendations and guidance to the department concerning:

(a) trauma care, including suggestions for changes to the statewide trauma care system;

(b) the implementation of a hospital data collection system; and

(c) the design and implementation of a statewide and regional quality improvement system for trauma care that considers the standards recommended by the American college of surgeons and an accrediting entity approved by the U.S. centers for medicare and medicaid services;

(2) assist the department in conducting statewide quality improvement and peer review functions by regularly analyzing the effect of the statewide trauma care system on patient care, morbidity, and mortality; and

(3) provide recommendations to and oversight and coordination of the activities of the regional trauma care advisory committees.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 579, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 131, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 131, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

50-6-405 through 50-6-409 reserved.

50-6-410. Department designation of trauma facility — revocation of designation — appeal. (1) In order to be designated as a trauma facility, a health care facility shall submit to the department an application, on a form specified by the department, that provides the information required by department rule.

(2) Upon receipt of a completed application for designation as a trauma facility, the department shall review the application for compliance with standards adopted by the department for designation of trauma care facilities. If the facility meets the standards adopted by the department, the department shall designate the facility as a trauma care facility, specifying the level of trauma care determined by the department to be appropriate for the facility.

(3) The department may revoke a designation as a trauma care facility if the facility no longer meets the requirements for designation or otherwise violates a department standard required to maintain designation.

(4) The department shall notify the applicant in writing of the department's decision to approve, deny, or revoke a health care facility's designation as a trauma facility.

(5) A health care facility that submitted an application pursuant to subsection (1) may appeal a department decision refusing to designate the facility, a decision designating the facility for a different level of trauma care than requested by the facility, or a decision to revoke a designation as a trauma facility. In order to appeal the decision, the health care facility shall submit a written request for a hearing to the department within 30 days after the facility receives notice of the department's decision. The hearing on the appeal must be conducted pursuant to 2-4-604.

(6) Unless the appellant agrees to an extension of time, the department shall, within 30 days of its decision in an appeal pursuant to subsection (5), serve the appellant with written findings and conclusions that form the basis for the department's decision.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 579, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-6-411. Regional trauma care advisory committees. (1) Each trauma facility designated by the department pursuant to 50-6-410 shall appoint one representative to a regional trauma care advisory committee for the region in which the facility is located.

(2) Members of a regional trauma care advisory committee serve 4-year terms, except that one-half of the members initially appointed shall, as determined by lot, serve 2-year terms. If a vacancy occurs, the appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term. Members may be reappointed and may be removed for cause by the appointing authority.

(3) Members of a regional trauma care advisory committee shall elect a presiding officer who shall serve a term of 2 years.

(4) Members of a regional trauma care advisory committee do not receive compensation from the state and may not be reimbursed by the state for their expenses.

(5) Regional trauma care advisory committees have the duties provided in 50-6-412.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 579, L. 1995.

50-6-412. Duties of regional trauma care advisory committees. A regional trauma care advisory committee shall:

(1) establish standards, policies, procedures, and protocols for the regional trauma care system;

(2) conduct regional trauma care quality improvement, including receipt of reports prepared by the department containing trauma care data and making recommendations to trauma care facilities within the region based upon those reports;

(3) advise the trauma care committee concerning the statewide trauma care system;

(4) establish trauma education and injury prevention programs;

(5) provide advice concerning trauma care to health care facilities and other providers of health care;

(6) perform other duties required by department rule; and

(7) conduct other activities needed to ensure optimal delivery of trauma care services within the region.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 579, L. 1995.

50-6-413 and 50-6-414 reserved.

50-6-415. Confidentiality. (1) Data in a health care facility's hospital trauma register and reports developed from that data pertaining to quality of trauma care may be given by the facility only to:

(a) the facility's peer review committee;

(b) the regional trauma care advisory committee of the region in which the facility is located;

(c) the trauma care committee; or

(d) the department.

(2) Data in the state trauma register and hospital trauma registers is not subject to discovery in a civil action and may not be introduced into evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(3) Data and reports concerning peer review, quality improvement, or the quality of the trauma care provided by a health care facility or a health care provider that are produced by a regional trauma care advisory committee or the trauma care committee or provided by a health care facility to a regional trauma care advisory committee or the trauma care committee, as well as the proceedings of those committees concerning peer review and quality improvement, are not subject to discovery in a civil action and may not be introduced into evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(4) A statistical report on trauma and trauma care developed by the department that does not identify specific health care facilities, health care providers, or patients is not confidential and is considered public information.

(5) A statistical report developed by a health care facility from information in its hospital trauma register that does not pertain to peer review or quality improvement is not confidential and is considered public information.

(6) Information in a department record or report that is used to evaluate and improve the quality of emergency medical service and trauma care by a health care facility or emergency medical service is not subject to discovery and may not be introduced in evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(7) Information in a department record or report that is used to determine whether a health care facility will be designated or lose its designation as a trauma care facility is not confidential and is considered public information.

(8) A standard or protocol adopted by the department pursuant to this part may not be used to demonstrate negligence or lack of negligence by a health care provider or health care facility to whom the standard or protocol applies.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 579, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Health care information, Title 50, ch. 16.

Part 5
Automated External Defibrillator Programs

50-6-501. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Automated external defibrillator" or "AED" means a medical device that:

(a) has received approval for marketing from the U.S. food and drug administration;

(b) is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia and of determining, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed;

(c) upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, automatically charges and indicates that it is ready to deliver an electrical impulse to an individual's heart; and

(d) may be used by an operator of the device to deliver an electrical impulse to an individual's heart.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Emergency medical service" means an emergency medical service as defined by 50-6-302.

(4) "Entity" means a public agency, department, office, board, or commission or other governmental organization or a private corporation, partnership, group, or business or other private organization.

(5) "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine pursuant to Title 37, chapter 3, part 3.

(6) "Public safety answering point" means a communications facility operated on a 24-hour basis that first receives 9-1-1 calls from persons in a 9-1-1 service area and that may, as appropriate, directly dispatch public or private safety services or transfer or relay 9-1-1 calls to appropriate public safety agencies.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 1999.

Cross-References

State emergency telephone system, Title 10, ch. 4.

50-6-502. AED program — requirements for AED use. In order for an entity to use or allow the use of an automated external defibrillator, the entity shall:

(1) establish a program for the use of an AED that includes a written plan that complies with this part and rules adopted by the department pursuant to 50-6-503. The plan must specify:

(a) where the AED will be placed;

(b) the individuals who are authorized to operate the AED;

(c) how AED use will be coordinated with an emergency medical service providing services in the area where the AED is located;

(d) the medical oversight that will be provided;

(e) the maintenance that will be performed on the AED;

(f) records that will be kept by the program;

(g) reports that will be made of AED use; and

(h) other matters as specified by the department;

(2) adhere to the written plan required by subsection (1);

(3) ensure that before using the AED, an individual authorized to operate the AED receives appropriate training approved by the department in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the proper use of an AED;

(4) maintain, test, and operate the AED according to the manufacturer's guidelines and maintain written records of all maintenance and testing performed on the AED;

(5) each time an AED is used for an individual in cardiac arrest, require that an emergency medical service is summoned to provide assistance as soon as possible and that the AED use is reported to the department as required by the written plan;

(6) before allowing any use of an AED, provide the following to all licensed emergency medical services and any public safety answering point or emergency dispatch center providing services to the area where the AED is located:

(a) a copy of the plan prepared pursuant to this section; and

(b) written notice, in a format prescribed by department rules, stating:

(i) that an AED program is established by the entity;

(ii) where the AED is located; and

(iii) how the use of the AED is to be coordinated with the local emergency medical service system; and

(7) comply with this part and rules adopted by the department pursuant to 50-6-503.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-6-503. Rulemaking. (1) The department shall adopt rules specifying the following:

(a) the contents of the written notice required by 50-6-502(6);

(b) reporting requirements for each use of an AED;

(c) the contents of a plan prepared in accordance with 50-6-502 and requirements applicable to the subject matter of the plan;

(d) training requirements in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED use for any individual authorized by an AED program plan to use an AED;

(e) guidelines for medical oversight of an AED program;

(f) minimum requirements for a medical protocol for use of an AED;

(g) performance requirements for an AED in order for the AED to be used in an AED program; and

(h) a list of the AED training programs approved by the department.

(2) The department may not adopt rules for any purpose other than those in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 335, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-6-504. Enforcement — cessation order — hearing — injunction. (1) If the department receives information that an AED is being used in violation of this part or a rule adopted by the department pursuant to 50-6-503, it may send a written order to the entity responsible for use of the AED, as specified in the plan prepared pursuant to 50-6-502, ordering the entity to cease the violation immediately. The order is effective upon receipt by the entity, and the entity shall comply with the terms of the order. If the department receives information that the violation has been corrected, the department may rescind its order by sending a notice to that effect to the entity. The rescission is effective upon its receipt by the entity.

(2) The entity may request a hearing to contest an order issued by the department pursuant to subsection (1) by submitting a written request to the department within 30 days after receipt of the order. A request for a hearing does not stay the enforceability of the department's order. The hearing must be held within 30 days after the department receives the request, unless the hearings officer sets a later date for good cause. The hearing must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) Either the county attorney for the county in which the violation occurred or the department may bring an action in the district court of the county where the violation occurred to enforce the department's order or to directly enjoin a violation of this part or a rule adopted pursuant to 50-6-503.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 335, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-6-505. Liability limitations. (1) An individual who provides emergency care or treatment by using an AED in compliance with this part and rules adopted by the department pursuant to 50-6-503 and an individual providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation to an individual upon whom an AED is or may be used are immune from civil liability for a personal injury that results from that care or treatment or from civil liability as a result of any act or failure to act in providing or arranging further medical treatment for the individual upon whom the AED was used unless the individual using the AED or the person providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as applicable, acts with gross negligence or with willful or with wanton disregard for the care of the person upon whom the AED is or may be used.

(2) The following individuals or entities are immune from civil liability for any personal injury that results from an act or omission that does not amount to willful or wanton misconduct or gross negligence if applicable provisions of this part and rules adopted by the department pursuant to 50-6-503 have been met by the individual or entity:

(a) a person providing medical oversight of the AED program, as designated in the plan prepared pursuant to 50-6-502;

(b) the entity responsible for the AED program, as designated in the plan prepared pursuant to 50-6-502;

(c) an individual providing training to others on the use of an AED.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 335, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 291, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Willfully defined, 1-1-204.
Availability of remedies, Title 27, ch. 1.

50-6-506. Exemptions. This part does not apply to the use of an AED by:

(1) a patient or the patient's caretaker if use of the AED is ordered by a physician; or

(2) a licensed health care professional, including an emergency care provider, whose scope of practice includes the use of an AED.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 335, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Licensing of medical doctors, Title 37, ch. 3.
Licensing of nurses, Title 37, ch. 8.
Licensing of physician assistants, Title 37, ch. 20.
Emergency care providers, Title 50, ch. 6, part 2.

CHAPTER 7
HOME HEALTH AGENCIES
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Certificates of Need (Repealed)

Part 3 — Licenses (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-7-101. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: **En. 69-7301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7301.**

50-7-102. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: **En. 69-7309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7309.**

50-7-103. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.

History: **En. 69-7310 by Sec. 10, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7310(2).**

50-7-104. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7310 by Sec. 10, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7310(1), (3).**

Part 2
Certificates of Need
(Repealed)

50-7-201. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(1), (2).**

50-7-202. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(5) thru (7).**

50-7-203. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(3).**

50-7-204. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(4).**

50-7-205. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(9).**

50-7-206. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7303(8).**

Part 3
Licenses
(Repealed)

50-7-301. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7302(1).**

50-7-302. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7302(5).**

50-7-303. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7302(3), (4).**

50-7-304. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7308 by Sec. 8, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7308.**

50-7-305. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7304.**

50-7-306. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7305.**

50-7-307. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7306 by Sec. 6, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7306.**

50-7-308. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7302(2).**

50-7-309. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 347, L. 1979.
History: **En. 69-7307 by Sec. 7, Ch. 383, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7307.**

CHAPTER 8
ONE-STEP FACILITY LICENSING

Part 1 — General

50-8-101. Definitions.
50-8-102. One-step licensing required.
50-8-103 and 50-8-104 reserved.
50-8-105. Inspections by employees of other department.

Part 1
General

50-8-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Facility" means:

(a) nonmedical facilities including:

(i) mental health transitional living facilities; and

(ii) inpatient freestanding or intermediate transitional living facilities for alcohol or drug treatment or emergency detoxification;

(b) community homes for persons with developmental disabilities, community homes for physically disabled persons, and adult foster family care homes;

(c) youth care facilities;

(d) public accommodations, including roominghouses, retirement homes, hotels, and motels;

(e) health care facilities or services, including hospitals, skilled and intermediate nursing home services, and intermediate care nursing home services for the intellectually disabled;

(f) freestanding medical facilities or care, including infirmaries, kidney treatment centers, and home health agencies; and

(g) assisted living facilities.

(3) "Inspecting authority" means the department or agency authorized by statute to perform a given inspection necessary for certification for licensure.

(4) "Licensing agency" means the agency that is authorized by statute to issue the license.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 275, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 68, L. 2013.

50-8-102. One-step licensing required. The department shall provide one-step licensing of all facilities under its jurisdiction. One-step licensing is at a minimum the provision of a designated office within the department or, by agreement between departments, in another department, responsible for issuing facility licenses. The one-step licensing office shall facilitate intradepartmental certifications for licensure. When practicable, one-step licensure also includes:

(1) the coordination of all governmental licensing functions, state and local, required for the licensure of a facility for a program or a service and for health and safety standards. The coordination must include at a minimum the names, addresses, and functions of all governmental authorities enforcing such standards and may include the requirement that the responsible office be a clearinghouse for all forms and applications for other agencies and for assuming the responsibility for insuring timely inspections, reviews, and application processing by other agencies.

(2) the use of departmental employees to inspect specified types of facilities for particular health and safety standards as provided in 50-8-105.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 356, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 276, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Discrimination in licensing prohibited, 49-3-204.

50-8-103 and 50-8-104 reserved.

50-8-105. Inspections by employees of other department. (1) Each department may, by joint rule with a state agency or by interlocal agreement with other governmental entities, authorize departmental employees to perform specific health and safety inspections for certain classes of facilities under the jurisdiction of another department or agency. Such inspections may be limited by type of facility, scope of inspection, and type of inspection, such as original application, renewal application, routine or unannounced inspection, or other identifiable inspection situations.

(2) The inspecting authority, prior to authorizing employees of another department or agency to make an inspection, may require minimal standards of knowledge or training

relevant to the type of inspection to be conducted. The inspecting authority may require periodic reexamination of such employees for necessary knowledge and ability.

(3) The inspecting authority delegates authority to the employees of another department or agency and is responsible for the quality of the inspections. The inspecting authority shall perform an inspection delegated to such an employee if the other department or agency or the head of the facility believes that the inspection situation is unique or that the employee is in error. The result of an inspection by the inspecting authority takes precedence over an inspection by an employee of another department or agency.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 356, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.

CHAPTER 9
RIGHTS OF THE TERMINALLY ILL ACT

Part 1 — General

50-9-101. Short title.
50-9-102. Definitions.
50-9-103. Declaration relating to use of life-sustaining treatment — designee.
50-9-104. Revocation of declaration.
50-9-105. When declaration operative.
50-9-106. Consent by others to withholding or withdrawal of treatment.
50-9-107. When health care provider may presume validity of declaration.
50-9-108. Effect of previous declaration.
50-9-109 reserved.
50-9-110. Authority to adopt rules.
50-9-111. Recognition of declarations executed in other states.

Part 2 — Effect on Health Care — Rights and Duties

50-9-201. Recording determination of terminal condition and content of declaration.
50-9-202. Treatment of qualified patients.
50-9-203. Transfer of patients.
50-9-204. Immunities.
50-9-205. Effect on insurance — patient's decision.
50-9-206. Penalties.

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5 — Health Care Declaration Registry

50-9-501. Health care declaration registry — website — rulemaking.
50-9-502. Health care declaration registry filing provisions — special revenue fund — failure to file declaration or notify of revocation — duty of health care providers to access registry.
50-9-503. Entry of declaration into health care declaration registry — removal of declaration.
50-9-504. Registry information — confidentiality — transfer of information.
50-9-505. Statewide education and outreach program.

Part 1
General

Part Cross-References

Do not resuscitate — notification, Title 50, ch. 10.
HIV testing required, 50-16-1008.
Determination of death, 50-22-101.
UPC — persons under disability — guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.
Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

50-9-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1991.

50-9-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who is licensed under Title 37, chapter 8, to practice professional nursing in this state and who has fulfilled the requirements of the board of nursing pursuant to 37-8-202 and 37-8-409.

(2) "Attending advanced practice registered nurse" means the advanced practice registered nurse who is selected by or assigned to the patient and who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(3) "Attending physician" means the physician selected by or assigned to the patient, who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(4) "Board" means the Montana state board of medical examiners.

(5) "Declaration" means a document executed in accordance with the requirements of 50-9-103.

(6) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(7) "Emergency medical services personnel" means paid or volunteer firefighters, law enforcement officers, first responders, emergency care providers, or other emergency services personnel acting within the ordinary course of their professions.

(8) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(9) "Life-sustaining treatment" means any medical procedure or intervention that, when administered to a qualified patient, serves only to prolong the dying process.

(10) "Living will protocol" means a locally developed, communitywide method or a standardized, statewide method developed by the department and approved by the board, of providing palliative care to and withholding life-sustaining treatment from a qualified patient under 50-9-202 by emergency medical service personnel.

(11) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(12) "Physician" means an individual licensed under Title 37, chapter 3, to practice medicine in this state.

(13) "Qualified patient" means a patient 18 years of age or older who has executed a declaration in accordance with this chapter and who has been determined by the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse to be in a terminal condition.

(14) "Reliable documentation" means a standardized, statewide identification card or form or a necklace or bracelet of uniform design, adopted by a written, formal understanding of the local community emergency medical services agencies and licensed hospice and home health agencies, that signifies and certifies that a valid and current declaration is on file and that the individual is a qualified patient.

(15) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(16) "Terminal condition" means an incurable or irreversible condition that, without the administration of life-sustaining treatment, will, in the opinion of the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, result in death within a relatively short time.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 277, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

50-9-103. Declaration relating to use of life-sustaining treatment — designee. (1) An individual of sound mind and 18 years of age or older may execute at any time a declaration governing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. The declarant may designate another individual of sound mind and 18 years of age or older to make decisions governing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. The declaration must be signed by the declarant or another at the declarant's direction and must be witnessed by two individuals. A health care provider may presume, in the absence of actual notice to the contrary, that the declaration complies with this chapter and is valid.

(2) A declaration directing a physician or advanced practice registered nurse to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment may but need not be in the following form:

DECLARATION

If I should have an incurable or irreversible condition that, without the administration of life-sustaining treatment, will, in the opinion of my attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, cause my death within a relatively short time and I am no longer able to make decisions regarding my medical treatment, I direct my attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, pursuant to the Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, to withhold or withdraw treatment that only prolongs the process of dying and is not necessary to my comfort or to alleviate pain.

Signed this ____ day of _________, ____.
Signature _____________
City, County, and State of Residence ____________________
The declarant voluntarily signed this document in my presence.
Witness___________________________________
Address___________________________________
Witness___________________________________
Address___________________________________

(3) A declaration that designates another individual to make decisions governing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment may but need not be in the following form:

DECLARATION

If I should have an incurable and irreversible condition that, without the administration of life-sustaining treatment, will, in the opinion of my attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, cause my death within a relatively short time and I am no longer able to make decisions regarding my medical treatment, I appoint __________ or, if that person is not reasonably available or is unwilling to serve, __________, to make decisions on my behalf regarding withholding or withdrawal of treatment that only prolongs the process of dying and is not necessary for my comfort or to alleviate pain, pursuant to the Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act.

If the individual I have appointed is not reasonably available or is unwilling to serve, I direct my attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, pursuant to the Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, to withhold or withdraw treatment that only prolongs the process of dying and is not necessary for my comfort or to alleviate pain.

Signed this ____ day of _________, ____.
Signature____________________________
City, County, and State of Residence______________________
The declarant voluntarily signed this document in my presence.
Witness________________________
Address________________________
Witness________________________
Address________________________
Name and address of designee.
Name__________________________
Address________________________

(4) If the designation of an attorney-in-fact pursuant to 72-5-501 and 72-5-502 or the judicial appointment of an individual contains written authorization to make decisions regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, that designation or appointment constitutes, for the purposes of this part, a declaration designating another individual to act for the declarant pursuant to subsection (1).

(5) A health care provider who is furnished a copy of the declaration shall make it a part of the declarant's medical record and, if unwilling to comply with the declaration, shall advise the declarant and any individual designated to act for the declarant promptly.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 240, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1819, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Persons under disability — guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.
Uniform Power of Attorney Act, Title 72, ch. 31, part 3.

50-9-104. Revocation of declaration. (1) A declarant may revoke a declaration at any time and in any manner, without regard to mental or physical condition. A revocation is effective upon its communication to the attending physician, attending advanced practice registered nurse, or other health care provider by the declarant or a witness to the revocation. A health care provider or emergency medical services personnel witnessing a revocation shall act upon the revocation and shall communicate the revocation to the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse at the earliest opportunity. A revocation communicated to a person other than the attending physician, attending advanced practice registered nurse, emergency medical services personnel, or health care provider is not effective unless the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse is informed of it before the qualified patient is in need of life-sustaining treatment.

(2) The attending physician, attending advanced practice registered nurse, or other health care provider shall make the revocation a part of the declarant's medical record.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 475, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 240, L. 2003.**

50-9-105. When declaration operative. (1) A declaration becomes operative when:

(a) it is communicated to the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse; and

(b) the declarant is determined by the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse to be in a terminal condition and no longer able to make decisions regarding administration of life-sustaining treatment.

(2) Except as provided in 72-17-216, when the declaration becomes operative, the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse and other health care providers shall act in accordance with its provisions and with the instructions of a designee under 50-9-103(1) or comply with the transfer requirements of 50-9-203.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 240, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 345, L. 2007.**

50-9-106. Consent by others to withholding or withdrawal of treatment. (1) If a written consent to the withholding or withdrawal of the treatment, witnessed by two individuals, is given to the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse, the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse may withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment from an individual who:

(a) has been determined by the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse to be in a terminal condition and no longer able to make decisions regarding administration of life-sustaining treatment; and

(b) has no effective declaration.

(2) The authority to consent or to withhold consent under subsection (1) may be exercised by the following individuals, in order of priority:

(a) the spouse of the individual;

(b) an adult child of the individual or, if there is more than one adult child, a majority of the adult children who are reasonably available for consultation;

(c) the parents of the individual;

(d) an adult sibling of the individual or, if there is more than one adult sibling, a majority of the adult siblings who are reasonably available for consultation; or

(e) the nearest other adult relative of the individual by blood or adoption who is reasonably available for consultation.

(3) A full guardian may consent or withhold consent under subsection (1) as provided in 72-5-321.

(4) If a class entitled to decide whether to consent is not reasonably available for consultation and competent to decide or if it declines to decide, the next class is authorized to decide. However, an equal division in a class does not authorize the next class to decide.

(5) A decision to grant or withhold consent must be made in good faith. A consent is not valid if it conflicts with the expressed intention of the individual.

(6) A decision of the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse acting in good faith that a consent is valid or invalid is conclusive.

(7) Life-sustaining treatment cannot be withheld or withdrawn pursuant to this section from an individual known to the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse to be pregnant so long as it is probable that the fetus will develop to the point of live birth with continued application of life-sustaining treatment.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 240, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2007.

50-9-107. When health care provider may presume validity of declaration. In the absence of knowledge to the contrary, a health care provider may assume that a declaration complies with this chapter and is valid.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

50-9-108. Effect of previous declaration. An instrument executed before October 1, 1991, that substantially complies with 50-9-103(1) is effective under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 391, L. 1991.

50-9-109 reserved.

50-9-110. Authority to adopt rules. The department may adopt rules to implement this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 475, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-9-111. Recognition of declarations executed in other states. A declaration executed in a manner substantially similar to 50-9-103 in another state and in compliance with the law of that state is effective for purposes of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 369, L. 1985.

Part 2
Effect on Health Care — Rights and Duties

50-9-201. Recording determination of terminal condition and content of declaration. Upon determining that a declarant is in a terminal condition, the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse who knows of a declaration shall record that determination and the terms of the declaration in the declarant's medical record.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

50-9-202. Treatment of qualified patients. (1) A qualified patient may make decisions regarding life-sustaining treatment so long as the patient is able to do so.

(2) This chapter does not affect the responsibility of the attending physician, attending advanced practice registered nurse, or other health care provider to provide treatment, including nutrition and hydration, for a patient's comfort care or alleviation of pain.

(3) Life-sustaining treatment cannot be withheld or withdrawn pursuant to a declaration from an individual known to the attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse to be pregnant so long as it is probable that the fetus will develop to the point of live birth with continued application of life-sustaining treatment.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Protection of premature infants born alive, 50-20-108.

50-9-203. Transfer of patients. An attending physician, attending advanced practice registered nurse, or other health care provider who is unwilling to comply with this chapter shall take all reasonable steps as promptly as practicable to transfer care of the declarant to another physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or health care provider who is willing to do so. If the policies of a health care facility preclude compliance with the declaration of a qualified patient under this chapter, that facility shall take all reasonable steps to transfer the patient to a facility in which the provisions of this chapter can be carried out.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to refuse participation in sterilization, Title 50, ch. 5, part 5.

Right to refuse participation in abortion, 50-20-111.

50-9-204. Immunities. (1) In the absence of actual notice of the revocation of a declaration, the following, while acting in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, are not subject to civil or criminal liability or guilty of unprofessional conduct:

(a) a physician or advanced practice registered nurse who causes the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a qualified patient;

(b) a person who participates in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment under the direction or with the authorization of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse;

(c) emergency medical services personnel who cause or participate in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment under the direction of or with the authorization of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse or who on receipt of reliable documentation follow a living will protocol;

(d) emergency medical services personnel who proceed to provide life-sustaining treatment to a qualified patient pursuant to a revocation communicated to them; and

(e) a health care facility in which withholding or withdrawal occurs.

(2) A health care provider whose action under this chapter is in accord with reasonable medical standards is not subject to civil or criminal liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct with respect to that decision.

(3) A health care provider whose decision about the validity of consent under 50-9-106 is made in good faith is not subject to criminal or civil liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct with respect to that decision.

(4) An individual designated pursuant to 50-9-103(1) or an individual authorized to consent pursuant to 50-9-106, whose decision is made or consent is given in good faith pursuant to this chapter, is not subject to criminal or civil liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct with respect to that decision.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 475, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

50-9-205. Effect on insurance — patient's decision. (1) Death resulting from the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in accordance with this chapter does not constitute, for any purpose, a suicide or homicide.

(2) The making of a declaration pursuant to 50-9-103 does not affect the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life insurance or annuity, nor does it affect, impair, or modify the terms of an existing policy of life insurance. A policy of life insurance is not legally impaired or invalidated by the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from an insured, notwithstanding any term of the policy to the contrary.

(3) A person may not prohibit or require the execution of a declaration as a condition for being insured for or receiving health care services.

(4) This chapter does not create a presumption concerning the intention of an individual who has revoked or has not executed a declaration with respect to the use, withholding, or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in the event of a terminal condition.

(5) This chapter does not affect the right of a patient to make decisions regarding use of life-sustaining treatment, so long as the patient is able to do so, or impair or supersede a right or responsibility that any person has to effect the withholding or withdrawal of medical care.

(6) This chapter does not require a health care provider to take action contrary to reasonable medical standards.

(7) This chapter does not condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing or euthanasia.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

50-9-206. Penalties. (1) A health care provider who willfully fails to transfer the care of a patient in accordance with 50-9-203 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(2) A physician or advanced practice registered nurse who willfully fails to record the determination of terminal condition or the terms of a declaration in accordance with 50-9-201 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(3) An individual who purposely conceals, cancels, defaces, or obliterates the declaration of another without the declarant's consent or who falsifies or forges a revocation of the declaration of another is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(4) An individual who falsifies or forges the declaration of another individual or purposely conceals or withholds personal knowledge of a revocation as provided in 50-9-104 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(5) A person who requires or prohibits the execution of a declaration as a condition for being insured for or receiving health care service is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(6) A person who coerces or fraudulently induces an individual to execute a declaration is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(7) The penalties provided in this section do not displace any sanction applicable under other law.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 369, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 391, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Licensing and regulation of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3.

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5
Health Care Declaration Registry

50-9-501. Health care declaration registry — website — rulemaking. (1) The attorney general shall establish and maintain a health care declaration registry.

(2) The registry must be accessible through a website maintained by the attorney general.

(3) The registry must be used to store declarations pertaining to life-sustaining treatment made pursuant to 50-9-103 that are filed with the attorney general.

(4) The registry must be maintained in a secure database that is designed to provide authorized health care providers with immediate access to the registry at all times.

(5) The attorney general may adopt rules to implement the creation and maintenance of a health care declaration registry and for the creation and maintenance of the statewide education and outreach program created in 50-9-505.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 2005.

50-9-502. Health care declaration registry filing provisions — special revenue fund — failure to file declaration or notify of revocation — duty of health care providers to access registry. (1) An individual or a person designated by the individual may file with the attorney general, for entry into the health care declaration registry, a declaration provided for in 50-9-103 that pertains to life-sustaining treatment.

(2) (a) The attorney general may accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests, and other forms of voluntary contributions to support, promote, and maintain the registry.

(b) There is a health care declaration account in the state special revenue fund. Money received pursuant to subsection (2)(a) and any money transferred from the general fund to the health care declaration registry must be deposited in the account and must be used by the attorney general to create and maintain the health care declaration registry and to create and maintain an education and outreach program for the public regarding advance health care planning and end-of-life health care decisionmaking.

(3) (a) Failure to file the declaration with the attorney general does not affect the validity of the declaration.

(b) Failure to notify the attorney general of a revocation of the declaration made pursuant to 50-9-104, does not affect the validity of the revocation.

(4) A health care provider is not required to access the registry in order to determine if a qualified patient has filed a declaration with the attorney general.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 2005.

50-9-503. Entry of declaration into health care declaration registry — removal of declaration. (1) Upon receipt of a declaration pertaining to life-sustaining treatment, the attorney general shall determine if the declaration is in compliance with the provisions of 50-9-103. If the declaration is not in compliance with the provisions of 50-9-103, the attorney general shall return the declaration together with a statement that the declaration was not filed due to its nonconformance with the requirements of 50-9-103.

(2) (a) If a declaration is accepted for filing, the attorney general shall create a digital copy of the declaration and enter it into the database of the health care declaration registry.

(b) The attorney general shall assign a unique access code to each individual who files a declaration that may be used by that individual or by a health care provider in a case in which the individual becomes a qualified patient to access the registry to view the filed declaration.

(c) (i) After entering the digital copy of the declaration in the registry, the attorney general shall return to the individual filing the declaration the original declaration along with two wallet-sized cards that indicate that a copy of the declaration exists in the registry and that the name and access code on the cards may be used to access the registry to view an electronic copy of the declaration.

(ii) (A) In addition to the materials provided to an individual filing a declaration under subsection (2)(c)(i), the attorney general shall include a form asking the individual filing the declaration to indicate on the form the privacy level that the individual desires with respect to accessing the declaration and asking the individual to return the form to the attorney general.

(B) An individual shall choose between two privacy levels. The standard privacy level allows access by the individual filing the declaration, appropriate health care providers, anyone with the name and access code, and anyone with the social security number, birth date, and mother's maiden name of the individual who filed the declaration. The higher privacy level allows access only by the individual filing the declaration, appropriate health care providers, and anyone with the name and access code. If a form indicating a choice of privacy level is not returned to the attorney general, the attorney general shall use the standard privacy level in determining access to a declaration.

(3) If the attorney general receives a notice of the revocation of a declaration that is contained in the health care declaration registry or is notified that a person who is the subject of a declaration filed in the registry is deceased, the attorney general shall remove that declaration from the registry.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 447, L. 2005.

50-9-504. Registry information — confidentiality — transfer of information. (1) The health care declaration registry must be designed to be accessible only by entering a name and access code on the internet website maintained by the attorney general or by the use of a password issued pursuant to subsection (3).

(2) Names and access codes are confidential and may not be disclosed to any person other than the person who submitted the declaration, a person named in the declaration, or a health care provider for whom the person named in the declaration is a qualified patient.

(3) (a) The attorney general shall issue confidential passwords to attending physicians, attending advanced practice registered nurses, and hospital medical records department staff that allow them to search the health care declaration database for a qualified patient who is unable to communicate health care choices.

(b) The attorney general shall establish by rule procedures for applying for and the issuance of confidential passwords to those persons described in subsection (3)(a).

(4) At the request of a person who submitted a declaration or who is named in the declaration, the attorney general may transmit the information received regarding the declaration to the registry system of another jurisdiction as identified by the requestor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 447, L. 2005.

50-9-505. Statewide education and outreach program. (1) The attorney general shall design, maintain, and administer a public education and outreach program to be conducted throughout the state pertaining to advance health care planning and end-of-life health care decisionmaking.

(2) The program must be designed to:

(a) increase the public's awareness of the importance of planning for end-of-life health care;

(b) improve the public's understanding of the various health situations that an individual may face if the individual is unable to express the individual's health care wishes; and

(c) explain the need for readily available legal documents that express an individual's health care wishes.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 447, L. 2005.

CHAPTER 10
DO NOT RESUSCITATE — NOTIFICATION

Part 1 — General

50-10-101. Definitions.
50-10-102. Immunities.
50-10-103. Adherence to do not resuscitate protocol — transfer of patients.
50-10-104. Effect on insurance — patient's decision.
50-10-105. Rulemaking authority.
50-10-106. Penalties.
50-10-107. DNR form to be readily available.

Part 1
General

Part Cross-References

Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, Title 50, ch. 9.
HIV testing required, 50-16-1008.
Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

50-10-101. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who is licensed under Title 37, chapter 8, to practice professional nursing in this state and who has fulfilled the requirements of the board of nursing pursuant to 37-8-202 and 37-8-409.

(2) "Attending advanced practice registered nurse" means the advanced practice registered nurse who is selected by or assigned to the patient and who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.

(3) "Attending physician" has the meaning provided in 50-9-102.

(4) "Board" means the state board of medical examiners.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "DNR identification" means a standardized identification card, form, necklace, or bracelet of uniform size and design, approved by the department, that signifies that the possessor is a qualified patient, as defined in 50-9-102, or that the possessor's attending physician or attending advanced practice registered nurse has issued a do not resuscitate order for the possessor and has documented the grounds for the order in the possessor's medical file.

(7) "Do not resuscitate order" means a directive from a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse that emergency life-sustaining procedures should not be administered to a particular person.

(8) "Do not resuscitate protocol" means a standardized method of procedure, approved by the board and adopted in the rules of the department, for the withholding of emergency life-sustaining procedures by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and emergency medical services personnel.

(9) "Emergency medical services personnel" has the meaning provided in 50-9-102.

(10) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101 and includes a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102.

(11) "Life-sustaining procedure" means cardiopulmonary resuscitation or a component of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

(12) "Physician" means a person licensed under Title 37, chapter 3, to practice medicine in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 278, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 240, L. 2003.**

50-10-102. Immunities. (1) The following are not subject to civil or criminal liability and are not guilty of unprofessional conduct upon discovery of DNR identification upon a person:

(a) a physician or advanced practice registered nurse who causes the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from that person;

(b) a person who participates in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures under the direction or with the authorization of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse;

(c) emergency medical services personnel who cause or participate in the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from that person;

(d) a health care facility in which withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from that person occurs;

(e) physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, persons under the direction or authorization of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse, emergency medical services personnel, or health care facilities that provide life-sustaining procedures pursuant to an oral or written request communicated to them by a person who possesses DNR identification.

(2) The provisions of subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) apply when a life-sustaining procedure is withheld or withdrawn in accordance with the do not resuscitate protocol.

(3) Emergency medical services personnel who follow a do not resuscitate order from a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse are not subject to civil or criminal liability and are not guilty of unprofessional conduct.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 581, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 240, L. 2003.**

50-10-103. Adherence to do not resuscitate protocol — transfer of patients. (1) Except as provided in 72-17-216, emergency medical services personnel, other than physicians or advanced practice registered nurses, shall comply with the do not resuscitate protocol when presented with either do not resuscitate identification, an oral do not resuscitate order issued directly by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse, or a written do not resuscitate order entered on a form prescribed by the department.

(2) An attending physician, an attending advanced practice registered nurse, or a health care facility unwilling or unable to comply with the do not resuscitate protocol shall take all reasonable steps to transfer a person possessing DNR identification to another physician or advanced practice registered nurse or to a health care facility in which the do not resuscitate protocol will be followed.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 581, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 240, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 345, L. 2007.**

50-10-104. Effect on insurance — patient's decision. (1) Death resulting from the withholding or withdrawal of emergency life-sustaining procedures pursuant to the do not resuscitate protocol and in accordance with this part is not, for any purpose, a suicide or homicide.

(2) The possession of DNR identification pursuant to this part does not affect in any manner the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life insurance, nor does it modify the terms of an existing policy of life insurance. A policy of life insurance is not legally impaired or invalidated in any manner by the withholding or withdrawal of emergency life-sustaining procedures from an insured person possessing DNR identification, notwithstanding any term of the policy to the contrary.

(3) A physician, advanced practice registered nurse, health care facility, or other health care provider and a health care service plan, insurer issuing disability insurance, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, or nonprofit hospital plan may not require a person to possess DNR identification as a condition for being insured for or receiving health care services.

(4) This part does not create a presumption concerning the intention of an individual who does not possess DNR identification with respect to the use, withholding, or withdrawal of emergency life-sustaining procedures.

(5) This part does not increase or decrease the right of a patient to make decisions regarding the use of emergency life-sustaining procedures if the patient is able to do so, nor does this part impair or supersede any right or responsibility that a person has to effect the withholding or withdrawal of medical care in any lawful manner. In that respect, the provisions of this part are cumulative.

(6) This part does not authorize or approve mercy killing.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

50-10-105. Rulemaking authority. (1) Upon the adoption of a do not resuscitate protocol by the board, the department may adopt a standard form of DNR identification to be used statewide.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to administer the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 581, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-10-106. Penalties. (1) A physician or advanced practice registered nurse who willfully fails to transfer a patient in accordance with 50-10-103 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(2) A person who purposely conceals, cancels, defaces, or obliterates the DNR identification of another without the consent of the possessor or who falsifies or forges a revocation of the DNR identification of another is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(3) A person who falsifies or forges the DNR identification of another or purposely conceals or withholds personal knowledge of a revocation of DNR identification with the intent to cause the use, withholding, or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 581, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 240, L. 2003.

50-10-107. DNR form to be readily available. The department shall ensure that the DNR identification form approved by the department is readily available at no cost or at a nominal charge.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 11

BAN ON REPRODUCTIVE HUMAN CLONING

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-11-101. Definitions.
50-11-102. Prohibited acts — penalties.
50-11-103. Scientific research — exception.

Part 1

General Provisions

50-11-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Embryo" means an organism of the species Homo sapiens from the single cell stage to 8 weeks of development.

(2) "Female" has the meaning provided in 1-1-201.

(3) "Fetus" means an organism of the species Homo sapiens from 8 weeks of development until complete expulsion or extraction from a woman's body or removal from an artificial womb or other similar environment designed to nurture the development of the organism.

(4) "Oocyte" means the human female germ cell, the egg.

(5) "Reproductive human cloning" means human cloning intended to result in the gestation or birth of a child who is genetically identical to another conceptus, embryo, fetus, or human being, living or dead.

(6) "Somatic cell" means a diploid cell, having a complete set of chromosomes, obtained or derived from a living or deceased human body at any stage of development.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 31, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-11-102. Prohibited acts — penalties. (1) A person or entity, public or private, may not knowingly:

(a) perform or attempt to perform reproductive human cloning;

(b) participate in an attempt to perform reproductive human cloning;

(c) ship, transfer, or receive for any purpose an embryo for reproductive human cloning; or

(d) ship, transfer, or receive, in whole or in part, any oocyte, embryo, fetus, or human somatic cell for the purpose of reproductive human cloning.

(2) A violation of subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b), or both, is a felony.

(3) A violation of subsection (1)(c) or (1)(d), or both, is a misdemeanor.

(4) All fines collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2009.

50-11-103. Scientific research — exception. (1) Sections 50-11-101 and 50-11-102 do not restrict areas of scientific research not specifically prohibited by 50-11-101 and 50-11-102, including research into the use of nuclear transfer or other cloning techniques to produce molecules, deoxyribonucleic acid, tissues, organs, plants, cells other than human embryos, or animals other than humans.

(2) Sections 50-11-101 and 50-11-102 do not apply to in vitro fertilization, the administration of fertility-enhancing drugs, or other medical procedures used to assist a woman in becoming or remaining pregnant if the procedure is not specifically intended to result in the gestation or birth of a child who is genetically identical to another conceptus, embryo, fetus, or human being, living or dead.

(3) Nothing in this section prohibits embryonic stem cell research using embryonic stem cell lines of uncloned origin.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 126, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 12
TREATMENTS FOR CHRONIC OR TERMINAL ILLNESS

Part 1 — Right to Try Act

50-12-101. Short title.
50-12-102. Definitions.
50-12-103. Availability of experimental drugs.
50-12-104. Patient requirements.
50-12-105. Written informed consent required.
50-12-106. Effect on insurance coverage and health care services.
50-12-107. Heirs not liable for payments.
50-12-108. Disciplinary action prohibited.
50-12-109. State action prohibited.
50-12-110. Immunity from suit.

Part 2 — Palliative Care

50-12-201. Legislative findings — purpose.
50-12-202. Definitions.
50-12-203. Palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council — duties — membership.
50-12-204. Duties of council.
50-12-205. Palliative care consumer and professional information and education program.

Part 1
Right to Try Act

50-12-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Right to Try Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 2015.

50-12-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(2) "Health care provider" means any of the following individuals licensed pursuant to Title 37:

(a) a physician;

(b) an advanced practice registered nurse authorized by the board of nursing to prescribe medicine; and

(c) a physician assistant.

(3) "Investigational drug, biological product, or device" means a drug, biological product, or device that:

(a) has successfully completed phase 1 of a clinical trial but has not yet been approved for general use by the United States food and drug administration; and

(b) remains under investigation in a United States food and drug administration-approved clinical trial.

(4) "Written informed consent" means a written document that meets the requirements of 50-12-105.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 88, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 14, Ch. 88, L. 2023, in definition of health care provider in (c) after "a physician assistant" deleted "whose duties and delegation agreement allows the physician assistant to undertake the activities allowed under this part". Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 413, L. 2023, deleted definitions of eligible patient and terminal illness (see sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2023 for former text); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-103. Availability of experimental drugs. (1) A manufacturer of an investigational drug, biological product, or device may make the drug, product, or device available to a patient who has requested the drug, product, or device pursuant to this part.

(2) The manufacturer may:

(a) provide an investigational drug, biological product, or device to a patient without receiving compensation; or

(b) require a patient to pay the costs of or the costs associated with the manufacture of the investigational drug, biological product, or device.

(3) A manufacturer is not required to make an investigational drug, biological product, or device available to a patient.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-104. Patient requirements. A patient is eligible for treatment with an investigational drug, biological product, or device if the patient has:

(1) considered all other treatment options currently approved by the United States food and drug administration;

(2) received a recommendation from the patient's treating health care provider for an investigational drug, biological product, or device;

(3) given written informed consent for the use of the investigational drug, biological product, or device; and

(4) documentation from the treating health care provider that the patient meets the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-105. Written informed consent required. (1) A patient or a patient's legal guardian must provide written informed consent for treatment with an investigational drug, biological product, or device.

(2) At a minimum, the written informed consent must include:

(a) an explanation of the currently approved products and treatments for the disease or condition from which the patient suffers;

(b) an attestation that the patient concurs with the treating health care provider in believing that all currently approved and conventionally recognized treatments are unlikely to improve the patient's condition;

(c) clear identification of the specific investigational drug, biological product, or device that the patient is seeking to use;

(d) a description of the potentially best and worst outcomes of using the investigational drug, biological product, or device and a realistic description of the most likely outcome;

(e) a statement that the patient's health plan or third-party administrator and provider are not obligated to pay for any care or treatments consequent to the use of the investigational drug, biological product, or device unless they are specifically required to do so by law or contract;

(f) a statement that the patient's eligibility for hospice care may be withdrawn if the patient begins curative treatment with the investigational drug, biological product, or device and that hospice care may be reinstated if the treatment ends and the patient meets hospice eligibility requirements; and

(g) a statement that the patient understands that the patient is liable for all expenses related to the use of the investigational drug, biological product, or device and that the liability for expenses extends to the patient's estate, unless a contract between the patient and the manufacturer of the drug, biological product, or device states otherwise.

(3) The description of potential outcomes required under subsection (2)(d) must:

(a) include the possibility that new, unanticipated, different, or worse symptoms might result; and

(b) be based on the treating health care provider's knowledge of the proposed treatment in conjunction with an awareness of the patient's condition.

(4) The written informed consent must be:

(a) signed by:

(i) the patient;

(ii) a parent or legal guardian, if the patient is a minor; or

(iii) a legal guardian, if a guardian has been appointed pursuant to Title 72, chapter 5; and

(b) attested to by the patient's treating health care provider and a witness.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-106. Effect on insurance coverage and health care services. (1) This part does not:

(a) expand the coverage required of an insurer under Title 33 or of the state or a local government under Title 2 or Title 53;

(b) affect the requirements for insurance coverage of routine patient costs for patients involved in approved cancer clinical trials pursuant to 2-18-704, 33-22-101, 33-22-153, 33-31-111, 33-35-306, 53-4-1005, or 53-6-101;

(c) require a health plan, third-party administrator, or governmental agency to pay costs associated with the use, care, or treatment of a patient with an investigational drug, biological product, or device; or

(d) require a health care facility to provide new or additional services.

(2) A health plan, third-party administrator, or governmental agency may provide coverage for the cost of an investigational drug, biological product, or device or the cost of services related to the use of an investigational drug, biological product, or device under this part.

(3) A health care facility may approve the use of an investigational drug, biological product, or device in the health care facility.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-107. Heirs not liable for payments. If a patient dies while being treated with an investigational drug, biological product, or device, the patient's heirs are not liable for any outstanding debt related to the treatment or to a lack of insurance as a result of the treatment.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-108. Disciplinary action prohibited. (1) A licensing board may not revoke, fail to renew, suspend, or take any action against a license issued under Title 37 to a health care provider based solely on the health care provider's recommendations to a patient regarding access to or treatment with an investigational drug, biological product, or device.

(2) The department of public health and human services may not take action against a health care provider's medicare certification based solely on the health care provider's recommendation that a patient have access to an investigational drug, biological product, or device.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-109. State action prohibited. (1) An official, employee, or agent of the state of Montana may not block or attempt to block a patient's access to an investigational drug, biological product, or device.

(2) Counseling, advice, or a recommendation consistent with medical standards of care from a licensed health care provider is not a violation of this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-12-110. Immunity from suit. A manufacturer of an investigational drug, biological product, or device, a pharmacist, a health care facility, a health care provider, or a person or entity involved in the care of a patient using an investigational drug, biological product, or device is immune from suit for any harm done to the patient resulting from the investigational drug, biological product, or device if the manufacturer, pharmacist, health care facility, health care provider, or other person or entity is complying in good faith with the terms of this act and has exercised reasonable care.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 135, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 413, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 413, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Palliative Care

50-12-201. Legislative findings — purpose. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) individuals who are experiencing complex, chronic health issues that affect their quality of life should be offered palliative care as a treatment option;

(b) palliative care is appropriate at any age and any stage of a disease and can be provided in conjunction with curative treatments; and

(c) palliative care includes but is not limited to discussions of an individual's treatment goals and options, including, when appropriate, discussion of comprehensive pain and symptom management and of hospice care.

(2) It is the purpose of this part to ensure that individuals who could benefit from palliative care are made aware of their options through a consumer education program and an informed workforce trained in the benefits of palliative care.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 2017.

50-12-202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Council" means the palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council provided for in 50-12-203.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Palliative care" means patient-centered and family-centered medical care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering caused by serious illness.

(4) "Program" means the palliative care consumer and professional information and education program provided for in 50-12-205.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 153, L. 2017.**

50-12-203. Palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council — duties — membership. (1) There is a state palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council within the department to advise the department on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, and evaluation of outcomes of palliative care initiatives in this state.

(2) (a) The council consists of at least nine members appointed by the director of the department. Members must include:

(i) individuals with collective expertise in interdisciplinary palliative care provided in a variety of settings and to children, youth, adults, and the elderly;

(ii) individuals with expertise in nursing, social work, and pharmacy; and

(iii) members of the clergy or individuals with professional spiritual experience.

(b) The appointees must include:

(i) at least two board-certified physicians or nurses with expertise in palliative care;

(ii) at least one board-certified physician with expertise in chronic pain management;

(iii) a department employee with knowledge of the state medicaid program; and

(iv) a representative of a private insurer.

(3) Council members shall serve staggered 3-year terms.

(4) Council members shall elect a presiding officer and vice presiding officer and shall establish the duties of the officers.

(5) The council shall meet at least twice a year according to a schedule established by the director or the director's designee.

(6) The department shall provide administrative support to the council.

(7) Council members may not receive compensation for their service or be reimbursed for expenses.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 153, L. 2017.**

50-12-204. Duties of council. The council shall advise the director of the department on ways to improve access to and quality of palliative care. At a minimum, the council shall:

(1) conduct an initial survey of palliative care services available in Montana;

(2) submit an initial report highlighting opportunities and challenges for palliative care, including recommendations on how to address both the opportunities and the challenges;

(3) advise the department on material for inclusion in the palliative care section of the website provided for in 50-12-205; and

(4) recommend priorities for pediatric palliative care and the availability and delivery of palliative care services in rural and underserved areas.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 153, L. 2017.**

50-12-205. Palliative care consumer and professional information and education program. (1) There is a statewide palliative care consumer and professional information and education program in the department consisting of materials provided on the department's website.

(2) The program is intended to maximize the effectiveness of palliative care initiatives in Montana by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities.

(3) (a) The palliative care information available on the department's website must include but is not limited to information about:

(i) continuing educational opportunities for health care providers;

(ii) palliative care delivery in all settings, including but not limited to the home, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes;

(iii) best practices for palliative care delivery; and

(iv) consumer education and referral information for palliative care, including hospice care.

(b) The information must include links to external resources.

(4) The department may develop and implement other palliative care initiatives that the department determines would further the purposes of this part.

(5) The department shall consult with the council in implementing this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 153, L. 2017.

CHAPTERS 13 AND 14
RESERVED

CHAPTER 15
VITAL STATISTICS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-15-101. Definitions.
50-15-102. Statewide system of vital statistics to be established.
50-15-103. Duties of department.
50-15-104. Appointment and supervision of local registrars.
50-15-105. Appointment of deputies authorized.
50-15-106. Registrars and deputies to report violations.
50-15-107. Payment of fees to local registrars.
50-15-108. Duty to furnish information.
50-15-109. Certificates.
50-15-110. Repealed.
50-15-111. Certified copy fees — transfer.
50-15-112. Repealed.
50-15-113. Repealed.
50-15-114. Unlawful acts and penalties.
50-15-115 through 50-15-120 reserved.
50-15-121. Copies from system of vital statistics.
50-15-122. Disclosure of information from vital records or vital reports — rules.
50-15-123. Preservation of vital records.
50-15-124. Content of certificates, records, and reports.

Part 2 — Birth

50-15-201. Repealed.
50-15-202. Unattended birth.
50-15-203. Child of unknown parentage.
50-15-204. Delayed or amended birth certificate.
50-15-205. Repealed.
50-15-206. Repealed.
50-15-207. New birth certificate upon proof of legitimation.
50-15-208. Birth registration for stillbirth — requirements.
50-15-209. Certificate of nonviable birth — requirements.
50-15-210. Paternity acknowledgment.
50-15-211 through 50-15-220 reserved.
50-15-221. Birth registration.
50-15-222. Judicial birth facts procedure.
50-15-223. Certificates of birth following adoption, legitimation, or determination or acknowledgment of paternity.
50-15-224. Sex change designation on birth certificate.

Part 3 — Marriage and Adoption

50-15-301. Marriage certificates.
50-15-302. Clerk to report decree of dissolution or declaration of invalidity of marriage.
50-15-303. Certificates of dissolution of marriage or declaration of invalidity of marriage.
50-15-304. Substitute birth certificate for person adopted.

50-15-305 through 50-15-310 reserved.
50-15-311. Certificates of adoption or annulment of adoption — report of amended or annulled adoption decree.

Part 4 — Death

50-15-401. Repealed.
50-15-402. Copy to be forwarded to deceased's county of residence.
50-15-403. Preparation and filing of death or fetal death certificate.
50-15-404. Preparation of certificate when death not medically attended.
50-15-405. Authorization for removal of body from place of death.
50-15-406. Body brought into state for disposition.
50-15-407. Disinterment permit.
50-15-408 reserved.
50-15-409. List of deaths to be made by department — copy to county clerk.
50-15-410 reserved.
50-15-411. Sudden infant death syndrome — findings — definition.
50-15-412. Cause of death — sudden infant death syndrome.

Parts 5 and 6 reserved

Part 7 — Tumor Registry

50-15-701. Short title.
50-15-702. Definitions.
50-15-703. Duty to report tumors.
50-15-704. Confidentiality.
50-15-705. Tumor registry.
50-15-706. Rules.
50-15-707 through 50-15-709 reserved.
50-15-710. Immunity from liability.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-15-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in parts 1 through 4 the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who has been certified as an advanced practice registered nurse as provided in 37-8-202.

(2) "Authorized representative" means a person:

(a) designated by an individual, in a notarized written document, to have access to the individual's vital records;

(b) who has a general power of attorney for an individual; or

(c) appointed by a court to manage the personal or financial affairs of an individual.

(3) "Dead body" means a human body or parts of a human body from which it reasonably may be concluded that death occurred.

(4) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(5) "Dissolution of marriage" means a marriage terminated pursuant to Title 40, chapter 4, part 1.

(6) "Fetal death" means death of the fetus prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother as a product of conception, notwithstanding the duration of pregnancy. The death is indicated by the fact that after expulsion or extraction, the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. Heartbeats are distinguished from transient cardiac contractions. Respirations are distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

(7) "Final disposition" means the burial, interment, cremation, removal from the state, or other authorized disposition of a dead body or fetus.

(8) "Invalid marriage" means a marriage decreed by a district court to be invalid for the reasons contained in 40-1-402.

(9) "Live birth" means the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother as a product of conception, notwithstanding the duration of pregnancy. The birth is indicated by the fact that after expulsion or extraction, the child breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such

as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. Heartbeats are distinguished from transient cardiac contractions. Respirations are distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

(10) "Local registrar" means a person appointed by the department to act as its agent in administering this chapter in the area set forth in the letter of appointment.

(11) "Nonviable birth" means an unintentional, spontaneous fetal demise occurring after a heartbeat is detected but prior to the 20th week of gestation of a pregnancy that has been verified by a health care provider.

(12) "Person in charge of disposition of a dead body" means a person who places or causes a dead body or the ashes after cremation to be placed in a grave, vault, urn, or other receptacle or otherwise disposes of the body or fetus and who is a funeral director, an employee acting for a funeral director, or a person who first assumes custody of a dead body or fetus.

(13) "Physician" means a person legally authorized to practice medicine in this state.

(14) "Registration" means the process by which vital records are completed, filed, and incorporated into the official records of the department.

(15) "Research" means a systematic investigation designed primarily to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

(16) "Sex" has the meaning provided in 1-1-201.

(17) (a) "Stillbirth" means a fetal death occurring after a minimum of 20 weeks of gestation.

(b) The term does not include an abortion, as defined in 50-20-104.

(18) "System of vital statistics" means the registration, collection, preservation, amendment, and certification of vital records. The term includes the collection of reports required by this chapter and related activities, including the tabulation, analysis, publication, and dissemination of vital statistics.

(19) "Vital records" means certificates or reports of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage and related reports.

(20) "Vital statistics" means the data derived from certificates or reports of birth, death, fetal death, induced termination of pregnancy, marriage, and dissolution of marriage and related reports.

History: En. Secs. 2, 41, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 28, 48, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(1), (2), 69-4401; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 279, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 14, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 172, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 172, L. 2023, inserted definition of nonviable birth; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 32, Ch. 685, L. 2023, inserted definition of sex; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Determination of death, 50-22-101.

50-15-102. Statewide system of vital statistics to be established. The department shall establish a statewide system of vital statistics and adopt rules for gathering, recording, using, amending, and preserving vital statistics and vital records.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4402; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-15-103. Duties of department. The department shall:

(1) divide the state into registration districts and change districts as necessary;

(2) promulgate rules necessary to implement this chapter;

(3) administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted to implement this chapter;

(4) conduct training programs to promote uniformity of policy and procedures throughout the state in matters pertaining to the system of vital statistics;

(5) prescribe, furnish, and distribute forms required by this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this chapter or prescribe other means for the transmission of data that will accomplish complete and accurate reporting and registration; and

(6) prepare and publish reports of vital statistics of this state.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4403; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-15-104. Appointment and supervision of local registrars. The department shall:

(1) appoint local registrars;

(2) supervise local registrars and other persons required to comply with this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4409.

50-15-105. Appointment of deputies authorized. With approval of the department, local registrars may appoint deputies.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4410(part).

50-15-106. Registrars and deputies to report violations. Local registrars and deputies shall immediately report violations of this chapter or rules of the department to the department.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4410(part).

50-15-107. Payment of fees to local registrars. (1) The department may specify by rule a fee to be paid each local registrar for each complete birth, fetal death, or death certificate forwarded by the local registrar to the department or a monthly report stating the local registrar did not file certificates.

(2) The department shall annually certify to the county treasurer the number of births, fetal deaths, deaths, or monthly reports received from the county with the names of the local registrars and the amount due each.

(3) (a) The county treasurer shall pay each local registrar out of the county general fund.

(b) If the local registrar, appointed pursuant to 50-15-104, is employed by the county, the payment under subsection (3)(a) must be made to the county office in which the local registrar is employed.

History: En. Sec. 71, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4431; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Fees to be charged by County Clerk for copies, 7-4-2631.

50-15-108. Duty to furnish information. (1) A person having knowledge of the fact shall furnish information that the person possesses about a birth, death, fetal death, marriage, dissolution of marriage, or invalid marriage upon demand of the department.

(2) The person in charge of any institution or facility for the care of persons shall record and report all data required by this chapter relating to inmates or patients of the institution or facility.

History: (1)En. Sec. 75, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4435, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 70, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4430, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4430, 69-4435; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1820, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-15-109. Certificates. (1) All certificates must include information required by the department.

(2) Local registrars shall forward original certificates to the department, file a duplicate copy with the county clerk and recorder, and, unless the certificate is filed electronically, retain a triplicate copy.

(3) Local registrars may not issue certified copies of certificates.

(4) Certificates filed within 1 year after the time prescribed by the department are prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificates. Data pertaining to the father of a child is prima facie evidence only if the alleged father is the husband of the mother. If the alleged father is not the husband of the mother, data pertaining to the alleged father is not evidence in any proceedings adverse to the alleged father's interests, heirs, next of kin, devisees, legatees, or other successors in interest.

History: En. Secs. 51, 52, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4411, 69-4412; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Uniform Parentage Act, Title 40, ch. 6, part 1.

50-15-110. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4406.

50-15-111. Certified copy fees — transfer. (1) The department shall prescribe, by rule, a fee for:

(a) a certified copy of certificates or records other than a death certificate;

(b) a search of files or records when a copy is not made;

(c) a copy of information provided for statistical or administrative purposes as allowed by law;

(d) the replacement of a birth certificate subsequent to adoption, legitimation, paternity determination or acknowledgment, or court order;

(e) filing a delayed registration of a vital event;

(f) the amendment of a vital record, after 1 year from the date of filing; and

(g) other services specified by this chapter or by rule.

(2) (a) The minimum fee for a death certificate must be:

(i) $16 for each certified copy, including any additional certified copies requested at the same time as the first certified copy; and

(ii) $14 for each informational copy of a death certificate.

(b) The department may, by rule, prescribe a fee for a death certificate that is higher than the minimum fee listed in subsection (2)(a).

(3) Fees received under subsection (1) must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department for:

(a) the maintenance of indexes to vital records;

(b) the preservation of vital records; and

(c) the administration of the system of vital statistics.

(4) For fees received under subsection (2)(a), the department shall:

(a) transfer $1 of each fee to the department of labor and industry for use as provided in 37-19-204; and

(b) deposit the remainder of the fee in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department for the purposes listed in subsection (3).

History: (1)En. Sec. 47, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4407, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 48, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4408, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4407(part), 69-4408; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 587, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 160, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.

50-15-112. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4404(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1991.

50-15-113. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Secs. 45, 47, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 50, 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4405, 69-4407(part).

50-15-114. Unlawful acts and penalties. (1) It is unlawful to disclose data in the vital statistics records of the department, local registrars, or county clerk and recorder unless disclosure is authorized by law.

(2) A person shall be fined not more than $1,000 or be imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both, if:

(a) the person willfully and knowingly makes any false statement in a report, record, or certificate required to be filed by law or in an application for an amendment of a report, record, or certificate or willfully and knowingly supplies false information intending that the information be used in the preparation of any report, record, or certificate or amendment;

(b) without lawful authority and with the intent to deceive, the person makes, alters, amends, or mutilates any report, record, or certificate required to be filed under law or a certified copy of the report, record, or certificate;

(c) the person willfully and knowingly uses or attempts to use or furnish to another for use, for any purpose of deception, any certificate, record, report, or certified copy made, altered, amended, or mutilated;

(d) with the intention to deceive, the person willfully uses or attempts to use any birth certificate or certified copy of a birth record knowing that the certificate or certified copy was issued upon a record that is false in whole or in part or that relates to the birth of another person;

(e) the person willfully and knowingly furnishes a birth certificate or certified copy of a birth record with the intention that it be used by a person other than the person to whom the birth record relates.

(3) A person shall be fined not less than $25 or more than $500, imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both, if the person:

(a) knowingly transports or accepts for transportation, interment, or other disposition a dead body without an accompanying permit as provided by law;

(b) refuses to provide information required by law;

(c) willfully neglects or violates any of the provisions of law or refuses to perform any of the duties imposed upon the person by law.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 44, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4404, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 76, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4436, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 77, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4437, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4404(part), 69-4436, 69-4437; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 384, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1821, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 19, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Willfully defined, 1-1-204.
Knowingly defined, 1-1-204, 45-2-101.
General requirements of criminal act and mental state, 45-2-103.
Permit for disposition of body, 50-15-405.

50-15-115 through 50-15-120 reserved.

50-15-121. Copies from system of vital statistics. (1) Except as provided in subsections (6) and (7), the department and county clerk and recorders shall, upon receipt of an application, issue a certified copy or copies of a vital record or a part of a vital record to the registrant, the registrant's spouse, children, parents, or guardian, or an authorized representative. Other individuals may obtain certified copies when the individual demonstrates that the record is needed for the determination or protection of the individual's personal or property rights. The department shall adopt rules to further define those who may obtain copies of vital records filed under this chapter.

(2) All applications, forms, and procedures used in the issuance of certified copies of vital records in the state must be uniform and prepared or approved by the department. All certified copies must contain security features that deter the document from being altered, counterfeited, duplicated, or simulated without ready detection that there have been these changes to the document.

(3) Each copy issued must show the date of filing. Copies issued from amended records must be marked and must show the effective date of the amendment. Copies issued from delayed records must be marked, must include the date of filing, and must contain a statement of the evidence used to establish the delayed certificate. A copy issued of a certificate of foreign birth must indicate the fact of foreign birth and the date of birth (if known), must show the actual place of birth, and must state that the certificate is not proof of United States citizenship for the adoptive child.

(4) A certified copy or other copy of a death certificate must be issued upon request of any person.

(5) A certified copy of a vital record or any part of a vital record, issued in accordance with subsections (1) through (3), must be considered for all purposes the same as the original. The admissibility of a certificate or vital record filed more than 1 year after the event or after a corrective record is filed, of a vital record that has been amended, or of a certificate of foreign birth must be determined by the judicial or administrative body or official before whom the certificate is offered as evidence.

(6) This section may not be construed to permit disclosure of confidential information contained in a birth certificate for medical or health use or of information for statistical purposes

only contained in a certificate of marriage or report of dissolution of marriage unless disclosure is specifically authorized by law for statistical or research purposes or unless ordered by a court.

(7) (a) When the department receives information that a certificate may have been registered through fraud or misrepresentation, it shall withhold issuance of the certificate or any copy of that certificate pending issuance of an order after an administrative contested case hearing before the department to determine whether fraud or misrepresentation has occurred.

(b) The hearing provided for in subsection (7)(a) must be conducted pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. In the proceeding, the department shall notify the registrant or the registrant's authorized representative and provide the registrant or the representative the opportunity to be heard.

(c) If, upon conclusion of the hearing, fraud or misrepresentation is not found, the department may issue the certificate or copies of the certificate in question.

(d) If, upon conclusion of the hearing, fraud or misrepresentation is found, the department may not register the certificate unless ordered to do so by a court.

(e) An affected person may appeal the department's decision to the district court as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

(8) A person may not prepare or issue any certificate that purports to be an original or certified copy, except as authorized in this chapter or rules adopted to implement this chapter.

(9) The department may, by rule, prescribe details for the hearing and appellate procedures contained in this section.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 416, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Uniform Parentage Act, Title 40, ch. 6, part 1.
Perjury and other falsification in official matters, Title 45, ch. 7, part 2.
Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-15-122. Disclosure of information from vital records or vital reports — rules. (1) It is the policy of the state to protect the integrity of vital records and vital reports, to ensure their proper use, and to ensure the efficient and proper administration of the system of vital statistics. In furtherance of the policy, a person may not permit inspection of or disclose information contained in vital records or in vital reports or copy or issue a copy of all or a part of a record or report unless authorized by this chapter, by administrative rule, or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Rules adopted under this chapter must provide for adequate standards of security and confidentiality of vital records.

(2) The execution of a research agreement that protects the confidentiality of the information provided to a researcher in response to a written request is required for disclosure of information that may identify a person or institution named in a vital record or report. This agreement must be made in compliance with this chapter or rules adopted to implement this chapter. Each agreement must prohibit the release by the researcher of any information that might identify a person or institution, other than releases that may be provided for in the agreement.

(3) This section does not prohibit the release of information or data that does not identify a person or institution named in a vital record or report.

(4) A challenge to a decision of a custodian of vital records to refuse disclosing information from records, as prescribed by this section and rules issued to implement this section, must be made before the department in the case of a county clerk and recorder and to a district court in the case of the department. A challenge before the department must be in the form of a contested case pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. An appeal of the department's decision to district court must be made by filing an original action pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(5) (a) Immediately upon the filing of a record with the department, the fact that a birth or death has occurred may be released to the public without restriction. Notwithstanding the restrictions provided in 50-15-121, complete birth records may be released to the public 30

years after the date of birth. The department shall adopt rules that provide for the continued safekeeping of the records.

(b) Upon the filing of a record of marriage with the clerk of the district court, information that may be released to the public without restriction is specifically limited to:

(i) the names of the parties, the age of the parties, and their place of birth;

(ii) the date and place of the marriage;

(iii) the names and addresses of the parents of the parties;

(iv) the name of the officiant; and

(v) the type of ceremony.

(c) Any other information contained in a marriage license application that is not authorized to be disclosed under subsection (5)(b) is considered confidential and is subject to the disclosure limitations and penalties provided in 50-15-114.

(d) Notwithstanding the restrictions provided in 50-15-121 and this section, the information contained in a marriage license and marriage certificate may be released to the public 30 years after the date of the marriage.

(e) Upon the filing of a record of a dissolution of marriage with the clerk of the district court, that record may be released to the public without restriction unless designated confidential by the court. A record of dissolution of marriage designated confidential by the court may be provided to a federal, state, or local government agency upon request when the record is used solely in the conduct of the agency's official duties.

(6) The department may provide the national center for health statistics or a successor agency with copies of records, reports, or data from the system of vital statistics that are required for national statistics. The department shall enter into an agreement with the center, indicating the scope of disclosure of information, as required by this chapter or rules implementing this chapter, concerning the use of records, reports, or data for statistical or research purposes. The agreement must set forth the financial support to be provided by the center for the collection, processing, and transmission of the records, reports, or data. Upon written request of the center, the department may approve, by amendment to the agreement, additional statistical or research uses of the records, reports, or data supplied under the agreement.

(7) Federal, state, and local governmental agencies may, subject to this chapter and rules implementing this chapter, upon request, be furnished copies of records or data from the system of vital statistics if the copies or data is used solely in the conduct of the agency's official duties. The department shall, upon request by a licensed adoption agency, provide a birth certificate and related records for purposes of adoption, termination of parental rights, custody actions, paternity actions, child support actions, social security eligibility determinations, or Indian tribal enrollment determinations.

(8) Subject to this chapter and rules implementing this chapter, the department may, by agreement, transmit copies of records and other reports required to be compiled by this chapter to offices of vital statistics outside this state when the records or reports concern residents of those jurisdictions or persons born in those jurisdictions. The agreement must specify the statistical and administrative purposes for which the records may be used, and the agreement must provide instructions concerning proper retention, confidentiality requirements, and disposition of the copies. Copies received by the department from offices of vital statistics in other states must be handled as provided for in this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 416, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 91, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-15-123. Preservation of vital records. To preserve vital records, the department may prepare typewritten, photographic, electronic, or other reproductions of certificates, vital records, or reports kept by the department. The reproductions when certified and approved by the department must be accepted as the original records. The department shall maintain original vital records intact and in their original form on file at the department.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

50-15-124. Content of certificates, records, and reports. (1) In order to promote and maintain nationwide uniformity in the system of vital statistics, the department, in the preparation of the forms of certificates, vital records, or reports required by this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, may include the elements in forms and the forms recommended by the national center for health statistics for implementing a system of vital statistics.

(2) Each certificate, record, report, and other document required by this chapter must be prepared in a format approved by the department. All vital records must contain the date of filing.

(3) Information required in certificates, forms, records, or reports authorized by this chapter may be filed, verified, registered, and stored by photographic, electronic, or other means as prescribed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

Part 2
Birth

Part Cross-References

County Clerk to record births, 7-4-2613, 7-4-2619.

50-15-201. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4413.

50-15-202. Unattended birth. (1) If a birth is unattended and neither parent is able to prepare a birth certificate, the local registrar shall:

(a) secure information from any person having knowledge of the birth;

(b) prepare and file a birth certificate;

(c) within the time prescribed by the department, file a supplementary report furnishing information omitted from the original birth certificate if additional information is received.

(2) Birth certificates completed by a supplementary report may not be considered "delayed" or "amended".

History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4414; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 2009.

50-15-203. Child of unknown parentage. (1) A person who assumes custody of a child of unknown parentage shall immediately file with the local registrar a written report which shall constitute a birth certificate.

(2) The report shall contain:

(a) the date and place of finding or assumption of custody;

(b) sex, color or race, and approximate age of the child;

(c) name and address of the person or institution with whom the child has been placed for care;

(d) name given to the child by the finder or person who assumes custody.

(3) The place where the child was found or custody assumed shall be the place of birth.

(4) The date of birth shall be determined by approximation.

(5) If the child is identified and a regular birth certificate is found or obtained, the report shall be sealed and may be opened only by court order.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4415.

50-15-204. Delayed or amended birth certificate. (1) (a) If a certificate of birth for a person born in this state has not been filed within 1 year of the birth, a delayed certificate of birth may be filed in accordance with rules adopted by the department. A delayed certificate of birth may not be registered until the requirements regarding facts pertaining to the delayed certificate, as specified by rule, have been met.

(b) A birth of a person in this state whose name has not been registered within 1 year after the birth must be registered on a delayed certificate of birth form. The delayed certificate must contain the date of registration and a summary statement of the information submitted to explain the delayed registration.

(c) A delayed certificate of birth may not be registered for a deceased person.

(d) The department may not register a delayed certificate of birth if an applicant for a delayed certificate of birth does not submit the minimum documentation required by rule for delayed registration or if the department has cause to question the validity or adequacy of the applicant's sworn statement or the documentation provided to establish the facts and the deficiencies are not corrected. The department shall advise the applicant of the reasons for the refusal to register the delayed certificate of birth. The department shall advise the applicant of the right to seek an order from a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain registration of the delayed certificate of birth as provided in 50-15-222.

(e) The department may, by rule, provide for the dismissal of an application for registration of a delayed certificate of birth that is not actively pursued.

(2) The department or its designee may amend a birth, death, or fetal death certificate upon submitting proof as required by the department.

(3) The department shall adopt rules establishing the circumstances under which vital records may be corrected or amended and the procedure to correct or amend those records.

(4) If a birth certificate is amended by the department after filing, the certificate must show the date of the amendment and the mark "amended". A summary statement of the evidence in support of the amendment must be endorsed on the certificate.

(5) The probative value of a "delayed" or "amended" certificate of birth is determined by the judicial or administrative body before whom the certificate is offered as evidence.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 56, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4416, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 57, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4417, R.C.M. 1947; (4) En. Sec. 59, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4419, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4416, 69-4417, 69-4419; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 139, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-15-205. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 58, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4418.

50-15-206. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4422; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 118, L. 1989.

50-15-207. New birth certificate upon proof of legitimation. Upon receipt of proof of legitimation, the department shall prepare a new birth certificate in the new name of the person legitimated. Evidence upon which the new certificate is based and the original birth certificate shall be sealed and may be opened only upon court order. In case of legitimation, the department shall substitute records in the way provided in 50-15-304(2) for records of adoption.

History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4423.

50-15-208. Birth registration for stillbirth — requirements. (1) The department shall establish a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth on a form adopted by the department when the birth results in a stillbirth. Upon request by a parent, a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth must be filed in addition to the fetal death certificate provided for in 50-15-403. Upon request, a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth must be provided to a parent.

(2) A certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth may be filed by:

(a) the physician, the physician's designee, or the direct-entry midwife licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 27, in attendance at a stillbirth;

(b) the person in attendance at a stillbirth;

(c) the father or the mother;

(d) in the absence of the father and the inability of the mother, the person in charge of the premises where the stillbirth occurred; or

(e) the local registrar if 50-15-202 applies.

(3) The department shall adopt rules providing for:

(a) the time by which the certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth must be filed after the stillbirth;

(b) the evidence required to establish the facts of a stillbirth; and

(c) the information required on a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 2007.

50-15-209. Certificate of nonviable birth — requirements. (1) The department shall establish a certificate of nonviable birth on a form adopted by the department and meeting the requirements of subsection (4). On request by a parent, a certificate of nonviable birth must be filed and be provided to the parent.

(2) The department shall make available on its website information to advise a parent:

(a) of the manner in which a request for a certificate of nonviable birth may be made; and

(b) that the parent must request the certificate within 60 days of the nonviable birth.

(3) A request for a certificate of nonviable birth must:

(a) be made within 60 days of the birth on a form prescribed by the department by rule; and

(b) include the date of the nonviable birth and the county in which the birth occurred.

(4) The certificate of nonviable birth prepared by the department must contain:

(a) the date of the nonviable birth;

(b) the county in which the birth occurred;

(c) the name of the fetus. If the requesting parent does not wish to provide a name, the department shall fill in the certificate with the name "baby boy", "baby girl", or, if the sex of the child is unknown, "baby" and the last name of the parent as provided in 50-15-221.

(5) The following statement must appear on the front of the certificate: "This certificate is not proof of a live birth".

(6) A certificate of nonviable birth is a private commemorative document and is not a public record.

(7) It is a final agency action, not subject to review under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, for the department to refuse to issue a certificate of nonviable birth to a person who has failed to provide information required by the department by rule for issuance of the certificate.

(8) The department may not use a certificate of nonviable birth to calculate live birth statistics.

(9) This section may not be used to establish, bring, or support:

(a) a civil cause of action seeking damages against any person or entity for bodily injury, personal injury, or wrongful death for a nonviable birth; or

(b) a criminal cause of action against any person or entity for a nonviable birth.

(10) The department shall adopt rules as to the form, content, and process for the certificate of nonviable birth.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-15-210. Paternity acknowledgment. (1) Upon the birth of a child to a mother unmarried at the time of birth, the administrator or person in charge of a hospital or other institution in which the birth occurs or the midwife who attends the birth shall:

(a) provide an opportunity for the child's mother and alleged father to complete an acknowledgment of paternity pursuant to 40-6-105;

(b) provide written information, furnished by the department of public health and human services, describing the rights and responsibilities of paternity, the benefits of having a child's paternity established, and the child's right to receive support; and

(c) forward a copy of an acknowledgment signed by the mother and the father to the department.

(2) The hospital, institution, or midwife is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable costs of obtaining an acknowledgment. The department of public health and human services shall establish the amount of reasonable costs, not to exceed the amount for which federal financial participation is available, and the procedures for claiming reimbursement.

(3) Hospitals, institutions, and midwives shall use forms prescribed by the department of public health and human services for the acknowledgment of paternity.

(4) If the child is born in this state, the department of public health and human services shall file an acknowledgment received under 40-6-105 or this section with the child's certificate of birth. If the child was not born in this state or if an acknowledgment received under 40-6-105

or this section cannot be filed with the child's certificate of birth, the department shall file the acknowledgment in an acknowledgment registry created and maintained for that purpose.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 523, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 70, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 552, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Establishment of paternity — jurisdiction and venue, 40-5-231.
Establishment of paternity — notice of paternity determination, 40-5-232.
Establishment of paternity — administrative hearing, 40-5-233.
Paternity genetic tests, 40-5-234.
Effect of order establishing paternity, 40-5-235.
Referral of paternity issue to District Court, 40-5-236.
District Court paternity proceedings, 40-5-237.

50-15-211 through 50-15-220 reserved.

50-15-221. Birth registration. (1) A certificate of birth must be filed as specified in this section with the department for each live birth that occurs in this state. Unless otherwise directed by the department, the certificate must be filed within the time prescribed by the department by rule after the birth. The birth certificate must be registered if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this section and rules adopted to implement this section.

(2) If a birth occurs in a health care facility, the birth certificate must be completed and filed by the attending physician or the physician's designee.

(3) If a birth occurs in or en route to a health care facility, the person in charge of the facility or the person's authorized designee shall obtain the personal data concerning the newborn child, prepare the certificate, and certify that the child was born alive at the place, at the time, and on the date stated. Certification may be by signature or by an approved electronic process. The person referenced in this subsection shall file the certificate as directed in subsection (1). The physician or other person in attendance at the birth shall provide the medical information required by the certificate within 72 hours after the birth.

(4) The department shall, by rule, determine what evidence may be required to establish the facts of birth if the birth occurs at a place other than a health care facility. In accordance with rules promulgated by the department, the certificate must be prepared and filed by one of the following persons in the indicated order of priority in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(e):

(a) the physician or the physician's designee or a midwife licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 27, in attendance at or immediately after the birth;

(b) a person in attendance at or immediately after the birth;

(c) the father or the mother;

(d) in the absence of the father and the inability of the mother, the person in charge of the premises where the birth occurred; or

(e) the local registrar, if 50-15-202 applies.

(5) When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance within the United States and the newborn child is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the birth must be registered in this state by a person listed in subsection (4) and the place where the child is first removed from the conveyance is considered the place of birth. When a birth occurs on a moving conveyance while in international waters or air space or in a foreign country or its air space and the child is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the birth must be registered by a person listed in subsection (4) in this state, but the certificate must indicate the actual place of birth insofar as the place can be determined.

(6) For the purposes of birth registration, the woman who gives birth to the child is considered to be the mother, unless otherwise provided by state law or determined by a court of competent jurisdiction prior to the filing of the birth certificate. Information about the father must be entered as provided in subsection (7).

(7) (a) If the mother was married at the time of conception or birth or between conception and birth, the name of the husband must be entered on the certificate as the father of the child, unless:

(i) other paternity has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(ii) the mother and the husband execute joint or separate affidavits attesting that the husband is not the father of the child. Affidavits must be notarized, and signatures of the mother and of the husband must be individually notarized on any joint affidavit. If affidavits are filed, information about the father must be omitted from the certificate.

(iii) the mother executes an affidavit attesting that the husband is not the father and names a putative father, the putative father executes an affidavit attesting paternity, and the husband executes an affidavit denying paternity. Affidavits may be joint or individual or a combination of joint and individual affidavits. Each signature on an affidavit must be individually notarized. If all affidavits are filed, the putative father must be shown as the father on the certificate.

(b) If the mother was not married at the time of conception or birth or between conception and birth, the name of the father may not be entered on the certificate without an affidavit of paternity signed by the mother and the person to be named as the father.

(c) If paternity of a child is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, the name of the father and surname of the child must be entered on the certificate of birth in accordance with the finding and order of the court.

(d) If the father is not named on the certificate of birth, information about the father may not be entered on the certificate.

(e) Affidavits required under this subsection (7) must be filed with the department.

(8) Either parent of the child, or another informant, shall verify the accuracy of the personal data to be entered on the certificate in order to permit the filing of the certificate within the time prescribed in subsection (1).

(9) A certificate of birth filed after the time prescribed in subsection (1) but within 1 year from the date of birth must be registered by the natural parents, the adoptive parents, or the person having legal custody of the child, on the standard form of live birth certificate in the manner prescribed in this section and by rule. The certificate may not be designated as delayed. The department may require additional evidence in support of the facts of birth.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption of publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-15-222. Judicial birth facts procedure. (1) If the department declines to register a certificate of birth under the provisions of 50-15-204 or 50-15-221, a petition signed and sworn to by the petitioner may be filed with the district court, seeking an order establishing a record of the date and place of the birth and the parentage of the person whose birth is to be registered.

(2) The petition must be made on a form adopted or approved by the department and must allege:

(a) that the person for whom a certificate of birth is sought was born in this state;

(b) that a certificate of birth of the person cannot be found at the department or at the office of the clerk and recorder;

(c) that diligent efforts by the petitioner have failed to obtain the evidence to establish entitlement to a certificate of birth required in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted pursuant to this chapter;

(d) that the department has declined to file a certificate of birth; and

(e) other allegations as may be required by law.

(3) The petition must be accompanied by all documentary evidence that was submitted to the department in support of the applicant's registration and by a statement of the reasons why the department declined to register the certificate of birth.

(4) The district court shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition and shall give the department 30 days' notice of the hearing. The department through its authorized representative shall appear and testify as a witness in the proceeding if determined necessary by the court.

(5) If the district court finds, from the evidence presented, that the person for whom a certificate of birth is sought was born in this state, it shall make findings as to the date and place of birth, parentage, and other relevant facts and shall issue an order establishing the certificate of birth. The order must include the findings and birth data to be registered, a description of the evidence presented, and the date of the court's action.

(6) The clerk of the court shall forward the order referred to in subsection (5) to the department not later than the 10th calendar day of the month following the month in which it was entered. The order must be registered by the department and constitutes the court-ordered certificate of birth.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 515, L. 1995.

50-15-223. Certificates of birth following adoption, legitimation, or determination or acknowledgment of paternity. (1) The department shall establish a new certificate of birth for a person born in this state when the department receives the following:

(a) a certificate of adoption, as provided in 50-15-311, a certificate of adoption prepared and filed in accordance with the laws of another state or foreign country, or a certified copy of the decree of adoption, together with the information necessary to identify the original certificate of birth and to establish a new certificate of birth; or

(b) a request that a new certificate be established if the request shows that:

(i) a district court, court of appropriate jurisdiction in another state, or administrative agency in this state or another state with appropriate jurisdiction has determined the paternity of the person and information necessary to identify the original certificate of birth is provided; or

(ii) both parents have acknowledged the paternity of the person and request that the surname be changed from that shown on the original certificate.

(2) The date of birth and the city and county of birth must be stated in the newly established certificate of birth. The department shall substitute the new certificate of birth for the original certificate of birth in the files. The original certificate of birth and the evidence of adoption, legitimation, court determination of paternity, or paternity acknowledgment are only subject to inspection, except upon order of a district court, as provided by rule, as provided in Title 42, chapter 6, part 1, or as otherwise provided by state law.

(3) Upon receipt of a report of an amended decree of adoption, the department shall amend the certificate of birth as provided in rules adopted by the department.

(4) Upon receipt of a report or decree of annulment of adoption, the department shall restore the original certificate of birth issued before the adoption to its place in the files and the certificate of birth issued upon adoption and evidence pertaining to the adoption proceeding may not be open to inspection, except:

(a) as provided in Title 42, chapter 6, part 1;

(b) upon order of a district court; or

(c) as provided by rule adopted by the department.

(5) Upon written request of both parents and receipt of a sworn acknowledgment and other credible evidence of paternity signed by both parents of a child born outside of marriage, the department shall reflect the paternity on the child's certificate of birth if paternity is not already shown on the certificate of birth.

(6) If a certificate of birth is not on file for the adopted child for whom a new certificate of birth is to be established under this section and the date and place of birth have not been determined in the adoption or paternity proceedings pertaining to the child, a delayed certificate of birth must be filed with the department, as provided in 50-15-204, before a new certificate of birth may be established. The new certificate of birth must be prepared on a form prescribed by the department.

(7) When a new certificate of birth is established by the department, the department shall direct that all copies of the original certificate of birth in the custody of any other custodian of vital records in this state be forwarded immediately to the department.

(8) (a) The department shall, upon request of the adopting parents, prepare and register a certificate of birth in this state for a person who was born in a foreign country and adopted through a district court in this state.

(b) The certificate of birth must be established by the department upon receipt of a certificate of adoption, conforming to the requirements of 50-15-311, from the court that reflects entry of an order of adoption, proof of the date and place of the child's birth, and a request for the establishment of a certificate of birth from the court, the adopting parents, or the adopted person, if the person is 18 years of age or older.

(c) The certificate of birth must be labeled "Certificate of Foreign Birth" and must contain the actual country of birth. A statement must be included on the certificate indicating that it is not evidence of United States citizenship for the child for whom it is issued.

(d) After registration of the certificate of birth in the new name of the adopted person, the department shall seal and file the certificate of adoption, which is not subject to inspection, except upon order of the district court, as provided by rule, or as otherwise provided by state law.

(9) The department may promulgate rules necessary to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 552, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 149, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 162, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-15-224. Sex change designation on birth certificate. (1) The sex of a person designated on a birth certificate may be amended only if the department receives a certified copy of an order from a court with appropriate jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the person born in Montana has been changed by surgical procedure.

(2) The order must contain sufficient information for the department to locate the original birth certificate. If the person's name is to be changed, the order must indicate the person's full name as it appears on the original birth certificate and the full name to which it is to be amended.

(3) If the order directs the issuance of a new birth certificate that does not show amendments, the new birth certificate may not indicate on its face that it was amended.

(4) This section does not apply if the sex of a person was designated incorrectly on the original birth certificate due to a data entry error.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 2021.

Part 3
Marriage and Adoption

Part Cross-References

County Clerk to maintain index of marriage certificates, 7-4-2619.
Marriage license requirements, Title 40, ch. 1, part 2.
Declaration of marriage without solemnization, 40-1-311.
Registration of marriages, 40-1-321.
Certificates of marriage and records of certificates as evidence of marriage, 40-1-322.
Proof of solemnized marriage when no record, 40-1-323.

50-15-301. Marriage certificates. Before the 10th day of each month, each clerk of a district court shall report marriage certificates filed during the preceding calendar month to the department. Reports must be on forms and contain information prescribed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 72, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4432; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 114, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Marriage licenses, Title 40, ch. 1, part 2.

50-15-302. Clerk to report decree of dissolution or declaration of invalidity of marriage. (1) At the same time a decree of dissolution or declaration of invalidity of marriage is filed, the clerk of court shall prepare a report to the department on the form prescribed by the department. Parties to the action or their attorneys shall supply the clerk with necessary information.

(2) The report must include the:

(a) name, age, birthplace, residence, race or color, and occupation of each party;

(b) number, date, and place of any previous marriage of either party;

(c) number of children under 18 years of age in custody of either party and residing with the party;

(d) grounds for the action;

(e) number of the cause of action;

(f) county and judicial district where the action is filed; and

(g) date of judgment and the party that was granted it.

History: En. Sec. 74, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107, 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4434; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1822, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Declaration of invalidity, Title 40, ch. 1, part 4.
Dissolution of marriage, Title 40, ch. 4, part 1.

50-15-303. Certificates of dissolution of marriage or declaration of invalidity of marriage. Before the 10th day of each month, the clerk of the court shall prepare and forward to the department a certificate for each decree of dissolution of marriage or declaration of invalidity of marriage that became final during the preceding calendar month. Certificates must be on forms prescribed by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 73, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107, 110, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4433; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 515, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Declaration of invalidity, Title 40, ch. 1, part 4.
Termination of marriage, Title 40, ch. 4.

50-15-304. Substitute birth certificate for person adopted. (1) The procedure for issuing a substitute birth certificate for a person born in Montana and adopted is as follows:

(a) Before the 16th day of the month following the order of adoption, the clerk of the district court shall forward a certified copy of the final order of adoption to the department or the department may accept a certified copy of a final order of adoption from a court of competent jurisdiction of another state of the United States or a tribal court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) The department shall prepare a substitute certificate containing:

(i) the new name of the adopted person;

(ii) the true date and place of birth and the sex of the adopted person;

(iii) statistical facts concerning the adoptive parents in place of the natural parents;

(iv) the words "department of public health and human services" substituted for the words "attendant's own signature"; and

(v) dates of recording as shown on the original birth certificate.

(2) The procedure for recording a substitute birth certificate for a person born in Montana and adopted is as follows:

(a) The department shall send copies of the substitute birth certificate to the local registrar and to the county clerk and recorder.

(b) The local registrar and county clerk and recorder shall immediately enter the substitute birth certificate in their files and forward copies of the original birth record to the department.

(c) The department shall seal original birth records and open them only as provided in 50-15-223(2).

(3) On receipt of a certified copy of a court order annulling an adoption, the department shall restore the original birth certificate to its place in its files and notify the local registrar and county clerk and recorder.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 60, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 1977; Sec. 69-4420, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 61, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4421, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4420, 69-4421; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 282, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 149, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Office of County Clerk, Title 7, ch. 4, part 26.

50-15-305 through 50-15-310 reserved.

50-15-311. Certificates of adoption or annulment of adoption — report of amended or annulled adoption decree. (1) For each adoption decreed by a district court, the decree must require the clerk of the court to prepare a certificate of adoption on a form prescribed and furnished by the department. The certificate of adoption must include facts that are necessary to locate and identify the date and place of birth of the adopted person or, in the case of a person who was born in a foreign country, evidence from sources determined to be reliable by the district court as to the date and place of birth of the person. The certificate of adoption must also contain information necessary to establish a new certificate of birth for the person adopted and must identify the order of adoption. The clerk of the court shall certify the certificate of adoption.

(2) Information necessary for the clerk of the court to prepare the certificate of adoption must be furnished, by each petitioner for adoption on a form prescribed by the department, at the time that the petition for adoption is filed. A person or agency having knowledge of facts, as described in subsection (1), may be required by the court to supply the court with information necessary to complete the certificate of adoption. The district court may make the provision of the information for the preparation of a certificate of adoption a prerequisite to the issuance of a final decree.

(3) Whenever an adoption decree is amended or annulled, the clerk of the court shall prepare a report. The report must include the facts that are necessary to identify the original certificate of adoption and the facts amended in the adoption decree that are necessary to properly amend the birth record.

(4) No later than the 16th day of each calendar month or more frequently, as directed by the department, the clerk of the court shall forward to the department certificates of adoption, reports of annulment of adoption, and amendments of decrees of adoption that were entered in the preceding month, together with any related reports required by the department.

(5) When the department receives a certificate of adoption, report of annulment of adoption, or amendment of a decree of adoption for a person born outside this state, the department shall forward the certificate, report, or amendment to the state registrar or the agency charged with registering vital statistics in the state where the person was born.

(6) If the birth of an adopted child occurred in a foreign country and the adopted child was not a citizen of the United States at the time of birth, the department shall prepare a "Certificate of Foreign Birth" as required by 50-15-223. If the adopted child was born in Canada, the department shall send a copy of the certificate of adoption, report of annulment of adoption, or amendment of a decree of adoption to the appropriate registration authority in Canada.

(7) If the adopted child born in a foreign country was a citizen of the United States at the time of birth, the department may not prepare a "Certificate of Foreign Birth" and shall notify the adoptive parents of the procedures for obtaining a revised certificate of birth for their child through the United States department of state.

(8) A deceased person cannot be adopted.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 515, L. 1995.**

Part 4
Death

Part Cross-References

Office of County Coroner, Title 7, ch. 4, part 29.

50-15-401. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 118, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 64, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4424(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 1989.**

50-15-402. Copy to be forwarded to deceased's county of residence. If a state resident dies outside the county of residence, the clerk and recorder shall send a certified copy of the death certificate to the clerk and recorder of the deceased's county of residence. The copy must be considered the same as the original.

History: **En. Sec. 64, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4424(2); amd. Sec. 1823, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Office of County Clerk, Title 7, ch. 4, part 26.

50-15-403. Preparation and filing of death or fetal death certificate. (1) A person in charge of disposition of a dead body or fetus that weighs at least 350 grams at death or, if the weight is unknown, has reached 20 completed weeks of gestation at death shall obtain personal data on the deceased, including the deceased's social security number, if any, or, in the case of a fetal death, on the parents that is required by the department from persons best qualified to supply the data and enter it on the death or fetal death certificate.

(2) The person in charge of disposition of the dead body or fetus shall present the death certificate to the certifying physician, the certifying advanced practice registered nurse, or the coroner having jurisdiction for medical certification of the cause of death. The medical certification must be completed by the physician, the advanced practice registered nurse, or the coroner within the timeframe established by the department by rule. The person in charge of disposition shall obtain the completed certification of the cause of death from the physician, the advanced practice registered nurse, or the coroner and shall, within the time that the department may prescribe by rule, file the death or fetal death certificate with the local registrar in the registration area where the death occurred or, if the place of death is unknown, where the dead body was discovered.

(3) If a dead body is found in this state but the place of death is unknown, the place where the body is found must be shown as the place of death on the death certificate. If the date of

death is unknown, then the approximate date must be entered on the certificate. If the date cannot be approximated, the date that the body was found must be entered as the date of death, and the certificate must indicate that fact.

(4) When a death occurs in a moving vehicle, as defined in 45-2-101, in the United States and the body is first removed from the vehicle in this state, the death must be registered in this state and the place where the body is first removed is considered the place of death. When a death occurs in a moving vehicle while in international air space or in a foreign country or its air space and the body is first removed from the vehicle in this state, the death must be registered in this state, but the actual place of death, insofar as it can be determined, must be entered on the death certificate.

History: **En. Sec. 65, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4425; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 7, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 287, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 118, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 552, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 27, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 2001.**

50-15-404. Preparation of certificate when death not medically attended. (1) If the death or fetal death occurred without medical attendance or the physician or advanced practice registered nurse last in attendance failed to sign the death certificate, the local registrar may complete the certificate on the basis of information received from persons having knowledge of the facts.

(2) If it appears the death or fetal death resulted from other than natural causes, the local registrar shall notify the coroner and the state medical examiner for investigation and certification.

History: **En. Sec. 66, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 66-4426; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 7, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 258, L. 2001.**

50-15-405. Authorization for removal of body from place of death. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a dead body may be removed from the place of death only upon the written authorization or oral authorization, which must be reduced to writing within 24 hours, of the physician in attendance at death or the physician's designee, the advanced practice registered nurse in attendance at death, the coroner having jurisdiction, or a mortician licensed under 37-19-302.

(2) If the death requires inquiry under 46-4-122, the written authorization may only be granted by the coroner having jurisdiction or the coroner's designee or by the state medical examiner if the coroner fails to act. However, when the only reason for inquiry under 46-4-122 is that the body is to be cremated, the coroner may grant oral authorization for cremation of the body, which must be reduced to writing as specified under subsection (1) by the coroner.

(3) The written authorization to move a dead body or, when applicable, to cremate a dead body must be made in quadruplicate on a form provided by the department. The person in charge of disposition of the dead body, the coroner having jurisdiction, and the local registrar must each be provided with and retain a copy of the authorization. A fourth copy may accompany the body to final disposition, as necessary.

(4) A written authorization issued under this section permits removal, transportation, and final disposition of a dead body.

History: **En. Secs. 67, 68, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4427, 69-4428; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 7, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 287, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 258, L. 2001.**

50-15-406. Body brought into state for disposition. If a body is brought into the state for burial or other disposition accompanied by a permit, the local registrar shall endorse the permit and keep a record of it.

History: **En. Sec. 69, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4429.**

50-15-407. Disinterment permit. (1) A body, after burial, may be disinterred for reinterment or transport after a permit is obtained from the local registrar of the jurisdiction where the body is interred.

(2) Administration of this section is in the department, which shall adopt rules accordingly. The rules shall provide that, as a precondition to the permit, the applicant make a showing of reasonable cause for the disinterment.

(3) This section provides a supplementary procedure for disinterment of a dead body and is not amendatory to or repealing of any other act.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4428.1.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act, Title 22, ch. 3, part 8.
Penalty for disturbing corpses, 44-3-404.
Authority to order exhumation for postmortem examination, 46-4-103.
Power of County Coroner to order exhumation, 46-4-110.

50-15-408 reserved.

50-15-409. List of deaths to be made by department — copy to county clerk. The department shall prepare on or before the fifth of January, April, July, and October of each year a list of all deaths, together with the date of the death, reported to it during the period and shall send a copy of the list of deaths to the county clerk of each county in the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.50, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4458; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 521, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 72-16-217, MCA 1999; redes. 50-15-409 by Sec. 35, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

50-15-410 reserved.

50-15-411. Sudden infant death syndrome — findings — definition. (1) As used in 50-15-412 and this section, "sudden infant death syndrome" means the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including the performance of a complete autopsy, an examination of the death scene, and a review of the clinical history.

(2) The legislature recognizes that research has shown that sudden infant death syndrome is a leading cause of death among children from 1 month to 1 year of age. The legislature finds and declares that sudden infant death syndrome is a serious problem within Montana and that public interest is served by research and study of sudden infant death syndrome and its potential causes and indications.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1997.

50-15-412. Cause of death — sudden infant death syndrome. When the coroner's findings are consistent with sudden infant death syndrome, the coroner may state on the death certificate that sudden infant death syndrome was the cause of death.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 351, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Office of County Coroner, Title 7, ch. 4, part 29.
Investigation of death — autopsy, Title 46, ch. 4, part 1.
Cadavers and autopsies, Title 50, ch. 21, part 1.

Parts 5 and 6 reserved

Part 7

Tumor Registry

50-15-701. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Tumor Registry Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1981.

50-15-702. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Health care practitioner" means a person licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 3, to practice medicine or pursuant to Title 37, chapter 4, to practice dentistry.

(3) "Hospital" means a facility that provides, by or under the supervision of licensed physicians, services for medical diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons.

(4) "Medical services" means diagnosis or treatment of illness in a human being by or under the supervision of a health care practitioner.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 354, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 283, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1997.

50-15-703. Duty to report tumors. The following persons or entities shall report to the department on forms provided by the department all medical and personal information as specified in rules of the department and laboratory results pertaining to the treatment and condition of a person with a reportable tumor:

(1) a hospital that provides medical services relating to the tumor;

(2) a clinical laboratory, as defined in 50-5-101, that is not owned or operated by a hospital and that provides laboratory services relating to the tumor; and

(3) a health care practitioner or health care facility, not covered by subsection (1) or (2), providing medical services relating to the tumor.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 354, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 101, L. 1997.**

50-15-704. Confidentiality. Information received by the department pursuant to this part may not be released unless:

(1) it is in statistical, nonidentifiable form;

(2) the provisions of Title 50, chapter 16, part 6, are satisfied;

(3) the release or transfer is to a person or organization that is qualified to perform data processing or data analysis and that has safeguards against unauthorized disclosure of that information;

(4) the release or transfer is to a central tumor registry of another state and is of information concerning a person who is residing in that state; or

(5) the release is to a health care practitioner or health care facility that is providing or has provided medical services to a person who has or has had a reportable tumor.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 354, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 101, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-15-705. Tumor registry. The department shall maintain a registry containing the names of all persons reported to it and all other information submitted to the department concerning those persons pursuant to 50-15-703.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 354, L. 1981.**

50-15-706. Rules. The department may adopt rules implementing this part, including:

(1) the types of tumors that are reportable; and

(2) the information on each patient having a reportable tumor that must be submitted to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 354, L. 1981.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-15-707 through 50-15-709 reserved.

50-15-710. Immunity from liability. A person other than the department may not be held liable in a civil or criminal action for complying with the reporting requirements of 50-15-703 or for lawfully using information provided by the tumor registry in a manner that does not violate the Tumor Registry Act.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 101, L. 1997.**

CHAPTER 16
HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

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50-16-804. Representative of deceased patient's estate.
50-16-805. Disclosure of information allowed for certain purposes.
50-16-806 through 50-16-810 reserved.
50-16-811. When health care information available by compulsory process.

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Part 10 — AIDS Education and Prevention

50-16-1001. Short title.
50-16-1002. Statement of purpose.
50-16-1003. Definitions.
50-16-1004. AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection to be treated as other communicable diseases.
50-16-1005 and 50-16-1006 reserved.
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50-16-1008. Testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required — penalty.
50-16-1009. Confidentiality of records — notification of contacts — penalty for unlawful disclosure.
50-16-1010 through 50-16-1012 reserved.
50-16-1013. Civil remedy.
50-16-1014. Screening and pretest information.
50-16-1015. Prenatal HIV screening.
50-16-1016. Labor and delivery HIV screening.

Chapter Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Duty to report cases of communicable disease, 37-2-301.
Gunshot or stab wounds to be reported, 37-2-302.
Immunity from liability, 37-2-303.
Report to Department of Justice by physician, 37-2-311.
Physician's immunity from liability, 37-2-312.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-16-101. Public officials and corporations to furnish information on request. On request, employees and officers of firms and corporations and public officials shall furnish public health information to the department of public health and human services.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4114; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 284, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-16-102. Information on infant morbidity and mortality. (1) If information on infant morbidity and mortality will be used to reduce those problems, data relating to the condition and treatment of any person may be given to the department of public health and human services, Montana medical association, an allied society of the Montana medical association, a committee of a nationally organized medical society or research group, or an inhospital staff committee.

(2) A person who furnishes information under subsection (1) is immune from suit for damages arising from the release of the data or publication of findings and conclusions based on the data.

(3) Data supplied under subsection (1) may be used or published only for advancing medical research or medical education in the interest of reducing infant morbidity or mortality. A summary of studies based on the data may be released for general publication.

(4) The identity of a person whose condition or treatment was studied is confidential and may not be revealed under any circumstances.

(5) Any data supplied or studies based on this data are privileged communications and may not be used as evidence in any legal proceeding. Any attempt to use or offer to supply the data or studies, without consent of the person treated or the person's legal representative, is prejudicial error resulting in a mistrial.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4115; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 285, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-16-103. Information on shaken baby syndrome — program. (1) There is a shaken baby syndrome education program established in the department.

(2) The department shall:

(a) develop educational materials that present readily comprehensible information on shaken baby syndrome; and

(b) post the materials on the department's website in an easily accessible format.

(3) The materials required to be produced by this section must be distributed at no cost to the recipients.

(4) For purposes of 50-16-104 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Child care facility" means a day-care center, day-care facility, family day-care home, or group day-care home as those terms are defined in 52-2-703.

(b) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(c) "Hospital" means a hospital or rural emergency hospital, as those terms are defined in 50-5-101, that regularly provides maternity, pediatric, or obstetrical care.

(d) "Parent" means either parent, unless the parents are not married or are separated or divorced, in which case, the term means the custodial parent. The term also means a prospective adoptive parent or foster parent with whom the child is placed.

(e) "Shaken baby syndrome" means damage to the brain of an infant or young child, including but not limited to swelling that impedes the supply of oxygen to the brain or any degree of brain damage that results from the infant or young child having been forcefully shaken.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 602, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

50-16-104. Information on shaken baby syndrome — distribution. A copy of the shaken baby syndrome educational materials developed under 50-16-103 must be distributed in the following manner:

(1) by childbirth educators and staff of pediatric physicians' offices and obstetricians' offices to an expectant parent who uses the services of the educators or physicians;

(2) by a hospital in which a child is born to the child's parent before the child is discharged from the facility;

(3) by service providers under the MIAMI project, provided for in 50-19-311, to a child's parent during visits conducted in accordance with that project;

(4) by each child-care facility operating in this state to each of its employees; and

(5) by groups or entities that offer classes for babysitters.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 2009.

50-16-105 through 50-16-107 reserved.

50-16-108. Privacy in health care — ownership of firearms. (1) No health care provider or health care facility may:

(a) refuse to provide health care to a person because the person declines to answer any questions concerning the person's ownership, possession, or use of firearms; or

(b) inquire about a person's ownership, possession, or use of firearms as a condition of receiving health care.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) the terms "health care", "health care facility", and "health care provider" have the meanings provided in 50-16-504; and

(b) the term "possession" does not apply to the presence of a firearm on the person of a patient at the time of treatment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2013.

Part 2
Professional Review Committees

50-16-201. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Data" means written reports, notes, or records or oral reports or proceedings created by or at the request of a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of a health care facility that may be shared with a medical practitioner, including the medical practitioner being reviewed, and that are used exclusively in connection with quality assessment or improvement activities, including the professional training, supervision, or discipline of a medical practitioner by a health care facility. The term includes all subsequent evaluations and analysis of an untoward event, including any opinions or conclusions of a reviewer.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) incident reports or occurrence reports; or

(ii) health care information that is used in whole or in part to make decisions about an individual who is the subject of the health care information.

(2) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(3) (a) "Incident report" or "occurrence report" means a written business record of a health care facility that:

(i) may be but is not required to be created by the staff involved in response to an untoward event, such as a patient injury, adverse outcome, or interventional error, for the purpose of ensuring a prompt evaluation of the event; and

(ii) is a factual rendition of the event.

(b) The terms do not include any subsequent evaluation of the event created by or at the request of a utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee, regardless of whether or not the subsequent evaluation of the event occurred in response to an incident report or occurrence report. The creation of an incident report or occurrence report is not a condition precedent for a subsequent evaluation of an event, and any subsequent evaluation of an event remains privileged and confidential pursuant to this part, regardless of the creation of an incident report or occurrence report.

(4) "Medical practitioner" means an individual licensed by the state of Montana to engage in the practice of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, or a nursing specialty described in 37-8-202 or licensed as a physician assistant pursuant to 37-20-203.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6304; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 467, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 2013.

50-16-202. Committees to have access to information. It is in the interest of public health and patient medical care that health care facility committees have access to the records and other health care information relating to the condition and treatment of patients in the health care facility to study and evaluate for the purpose of evaluating matters relating to the care and treatment of patients for research purposes and for the purpose of reducing morbidity or mortality and obtaining statistics and information relating to the prevention and treatment of diseases, illnesses, and injuries. To carry out these purposes, any health care facility and its agents and employees may provide medical records or other health care information relating to the condition and treatment of any patient in the health care facility to any utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of the health care facility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6301(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

50-16-203. Committee health care information and proceedings confidential and privileged. All records and health care information referred to in 50-16-202 are confidential and privileged to the committee and the members of the committee as though the health care facility patients were the patients of the members of the committee. All proceedings, records, and reports of committees are confidential and privileged.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6301(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.

50-16-204. Restrictions on use or publication of information. A utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement committee of a health care facility may use or publish health care information only for the purpose of evaluating matters of medical care, therapy, and treatment for research and statistical purposes. Neither a committee nor the members, agents, or employees of a committee shall disclose the name or identity of any patient whose records have been studied in any report or publication of findings and conclusions of a committee, but a committee and its members, agents, or employees shall protect the identity of any patient whose condition or treatment has been studied and may not disclose or reveal the name of any health care facility patient.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6302; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

50-16-205. Data confidential — inadmissible in judicial proceedings. All data is confidential and is not discoverable or admissible in evidence in any judicial proceeding. However, this section does not affect the discoverability or admissibility in evidence of health care information that is not data as defined in 50-16-201.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6303; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

Part 3
Confidentiality of Health Care Information
(Repealed)

50-16-301. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-302. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-303. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-304. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-305. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-306 through 50-16-310 reserved.

50-16-311. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 578, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 725, L. 1985.

50-16-312. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-313. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

50-16-314. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 578, L. 1979.

Part 4
Health Information Center
(Repealed)

50-16-401. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 628, L. 1983.

Part 5
Uniform Health Care Information

Part Cross-References

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

50-16-501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Health Care Information Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

50-16-502. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

(1) health care information is personal and sensitive information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy and health care or other interests;

(2) patients need access to their own health care information as a matter of fairness, to enable them to make informed decisions about their health care and to correct inaccurate or incomplete information about themselves;

(3) in order to retain the full trust and confidence of patients, health care providers have an interest in ensuring that health care information is not improperly disclosed and in having clear and certain rules for the disclosure of health care information;

(4) persons other than health care providers obtain, use, and disclose health record information in many different contexts and for many different purposes. It is the public policy of this state that a patient's interest in the proper use and disclosure of the patient's health care information survives even when the information is held by persons other than health care providers.

(5) the movement of patients and their health care information across state lines, access to and exchange of health care information from automated data banks, and the emergence of multistate health care providers creates a compelling need for uniform law, rules, and procedures governing the use and disclosure of health care information.

(6) the enactment of federal health care privacy legislation and the adoption of rules pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., require health care providers subject to that legislation to provide significant privacy protection for health care information and the provisions of this part are no longer necessary for those health care providers; and

(7) because the provisions of HIPAA do not apply to some health care providers, it is important that these health care providers continue to adhere to this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

50-16-503. Uniformity of application and construction. This part must be applied and construed to effectuate their general purpose to make uniform the laws with respect to the treatment of health care information among states enacting them.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

50-16-504. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Audit" means an assessment, evaluation, determination, or investigation of a health care provider by a person not employed by or affiliated with the provider, to determine compliance with:

(a) statutory, regulatory, fiscal, medical, or scientific standards;

(b) a private or public program of payments to a health care provider; or

(c) requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(2) "Directory information" means information disclosing the presence and the general health condition of a patient who is an inpatient in a health care facility or who is receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

(3) "General health condition" means the patient's health status described in terms of critical, poor, fair, good, excellent, or terms denoting similar conditions.

(4) "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider, including medical or psychological diagnosis, treatment, evaluation, advice, or other services that affect the structure or any function of the human body.

(5) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(6) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and relates to the patient's health care. The term includes any record of disclosures of health care information.

(7) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(8) "Institutional review board" means a board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution or authorized under federal or state law to review, approve the initiation of, or conduct periodic review of research programs to assure the protection of the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

(9) "Maintain", as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information.

(10) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(11) "Peer review" means an evaluation of health care services by a committee of a state or local professional organization of health care providers or a committee of medical staff of a licensed health care facility. The committee must be:

(a) authorized by law to evaluate health care services; and

(b) governed by written bylaws approved by the governing board of the health care facility or an organization of health care providers.

(12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or other legal or commercial entity.

(13) "Reasonable fee" means the charge, as provided for in 50-16-540, for duplicating, searching for, or handling recorded health care information.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Government health care information — definition of health care information, 50-16-602.

50-16-505. Limit on applicability. The provisions of this part apply only to a health care provider that is not subject to the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and administrative rules adopted in connection with HIPAA.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

50-16-506 through 50-16-510 reserved.

50-16-511. Duty to adopt security safeguards. A health care provider shall effect reasonable safeguards for the security of all health care information it maintains.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 632, L. 1987.**

50-16-512. Content and dissemination of notice. (1) A health care provider who provides health care at a health care facility that the provider operates and who maintains a record of a patient's health care information shall create a notice of information practices, in substantially the following form:

NOTICE

"We keep a record of the health care services we provide for you. You may ask us to see and copy that record. You may also ask us to correct that record. We will not disclose your record to others unless you direct us to do so or unless the law authorizes or compels us to do so. You may see your record or get more information about it at ...."

(2) The health care provider shall post a copy of the notice of information practices in a conspicuous place in the health care facility and upon request provide patients or prospective patients with a copy of the notice.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 632, L. 1987.**

50-16-513. Retention of record. A health care provider shall maintain a record of existing health care information for at least 1 year following receipt of an authorization to disclose that health care information under 50-16-526 and during the pendency of a request for examination and copying under 50-16-541 or a request for correction or amendment under 50-16-543.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 632, L. 1987.**

Cross-References

Records and reports required of health care facilities — confidentiality, 50-5-106.

Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.

50-16-514 through 50-16-520 reserved.

50-16-521. Health care representatives. (1) A person authorized to consent to health care for another may exercise the rights of that person under this part to the extent necessary to effectuate the terms or purposes of the grant of authority. If the patient is a minor and is authorized under 41-1-402 to consent to health care without parental consent, only the minor may exclusively exercise the rights of a patient under this part as to information pertaining to health care to which the minor lawfully consented.

(2) A person authorized to act for a patient shall act in good faith to represent the best interests of the patient.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

50-16-522. Representative of deceased patient. Except as provided in 50-19-402, a personal representative of a deceased patient may exercise all of the deceased patient's rights under this part. If there is no personal representative or upon discharge of the personal representative, a deceased patient's rights under this part may be exercised by the surviving spouse, a parent, an adult child, an adult sibling, or any other person who is authorized by law to act for the deceased patient.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1824, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 235, L. 2017.

50-16-523 and 50-16-524 reserved.

50-16-525. Disclosure by health care provider. (1) Except as authorized in 50-16-529, 50-16-530, and 50-19-402 or as otherwise specifically provided by law or the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, a health care provider, an individual who assists a health care provider in the delivery of health care, or an agent or employee of a health care provider may not disclose health care information about a patient to any other person without the patient's written authorization. A disclosure made under a patient's written authorization must conform to the authorization.

(2) A health care provider shall maintain, in conjunction with a patient's recorded health care information, a record of each person who has received or examined, in whole or in part, the recorded health care information during the preceding 3 years, except for a person who has examined the recorded health care information under 50-16-529(1) or (2). The record of disclosure must include the name, address, and institutional affiliation, if any, of each person receiving or examining the recorded health care information, the date of the receipt or examination, and to the extent practicable a description of the information disclosed.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 235, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.
Gunshot or stab wounds — reporting by health care practitioners, 37-2-302.
Release of information by physician concerning minor, 41-1-403.
Records and reports required of health care facilities — confidentiality, 50-5-106.
Confidentiality under Tumor Registry Act, 50-15-704.
Unauthorized divulgence of serological test information, 50-19-108.
Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.
Confidentiality of records concerning mental illness, 53-21-166.
Records of chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members, 53-24-306.

50-16-526. Patient authorization to health care provider for disclosure. (1) A patient may authorize a health care provider to disclose the patient's health care information. A health care provider shall honor an authorization and, if requested, provide a copy of the recorded health care information unless the health care provider denies the patient access to health care information under 50-16-542.

(2) A health care provider may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, and is not required to honor an authorization until the fee is paid.

(3) To be valid, a disclosure authorization to a health care provider must:

(a) be in writing, dated, and signed by the patient;

(b) identify the nature of the information to be disclosed; and

(c) identify the person to whom the information is to be disclosed.

(4) Except as provided by this part, the signing of an authorization by a patient is not a waiver of any rights a patient has under other statutes, the Montana Rules of Evidence, or common law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

50-16-527. Patient authorization — retention — effective period — exception — communication without prior notice for workers' compensation purposes. (1) A health care provider shall retain each authorization or revocation in conjunction with any health care information from which disclosures are made.

(2) Except for authorizations to provide information to third-party health care payors, an authorization may not permit the release of health care information relating to health care that the patient receives more than 6 months after the authorization was signed.

(3) Health care information disclosed under an authorization is otherwise subject to this part. An authorization becomes invalid after the expiration date contained in the authorization, which may not exceed 30 months. If the authorization does not contain an expiration date, it expires 6 months after it is signed.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3), a signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits authorizes disclosure to the workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, or to the agent of a workers' compensation insurer by the health care provider. The disclosure authorized by this subsection authorizes the physician or other health care provider to disclose or release only information relevant to the claimant's condition. Health care information relevant to the claimant's condition may include past history of the complaints of or the treatment of a condition that is similar to that presented in the claim, conditions for which benefits are subsequently claimed, other conditions related to the same body part, or conditions that may affect recovery. A release of information related to workers' compensation must be consistent with the provisions of this subsection. Authorization under this section is effective only as long as the claimant is claiming benefits. This subsection may not be construed to restrict the scope of discovery or disclosure of health care information as allowed under the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, by the workers' compensation court, or as otherwise provided by law.

(5) A signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits or a signed release authorizes a workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, or the agent of the workers' compensation insurer to communicate with a physician or other health care provider about relevant health care information, as authorized in subsection (4), by telephone, letter, electronic communication, in person, or by other means, about a claim and to receive from the physician or health care provider the information authorized in subsection (4) without prior notice to the injured employee, to the employee's authorized representative or agent, or in the case of death, to the employee's personal representative or any person with a right or claim to compensation for the injury or death.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 333, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 464, L. 2003.

50-16-528. Patient's revocation of authorization for disclosure. A patient may revoke a disclosure authorization to a health care provider at any time unless disclosure is required to effectuate payments for health care that has been provided or other substantial action has been taken in reliance on the authorization. A patient may not maintain an action against the health care provider for disclosures made in good faith reliance on an authorization if the health care provider had no notice of the revocation of the authorization.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

50-16-529. Disclosure without patient's authorization based on need to know. A health care provider may disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization, to the extent a recipient needs to know the information, if the disclosure is:

(1) to a person who is providing health care to the patient;

(2) to any other person who requires health care information for health care education; to provide planning, quality assurance, peer review, or administrative, legal, financial, or actuarial services to the health care provider; for assisting the health care provider in the delivery of health care; or to a third-party health care payor who requires health care information and if the health care provider reasonably believes that the person will:

(a) not use or disclose the health care information for any other purpose; and

(b) take appropriate steps to protect the health care information;

(3) to any other health care provider who has previously provided health care to the patient, to the extent necessary to provide health care to the patient, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;

(4) to immediate family members of the patient or any other individual with whom the patient is known to have a close personal relationship, if made in accordance with the laws of the state and good medical or other professional practice, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;

(5) to a health care provider who is the successor in interest to the health care provider maintaining the health care information;

(6) for use in a research project that an institutional review board has determined:

(a) is of sufficient importance to outweigh the intrusion into the privacy of the patient that would result from the disclosure;

(b) is impracticable without the use or disclosure of the health care information in individually identifiable form;

(c) contains reasonable safeguards to protect the information from improper disclosure;

(d) contains reasonable safeguards to protect against directly or indirectly identifying any patient in any report of the research project; and

(e) contains procedures to remove or destroy at the earliest opportunity, consistent with the purposes of the project, information that would enable the patient to be identified, unless an institutional review board authorizes retention of identifying information for purposes of another research project;

(7) to a person who obtains information for purposes of an audit, if that person agrees in writing to:

(a) remove or destroy, at the earliest opportunity consistent with the purpose of the audit, information that would enable the patient to be identified; and

(b) not disclose the information further, except to accomplish the audit or to report unlawful or improper conduct involving fraud in payment for health care by a health care provider or patient or other unlawful conduct by a health care provider;

(8) to an official of a penal or other custodial institution in which the patient is detained; and

(9) to any contact, as defined in 50-16-1003, if the health care provider reasonably believes that disclosure will avoid or minimize an imminent danger to the health or safety of the contact or any other individual.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 544, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Duty of mental health professionals to warn of violent patients, 27-1-1102.
Nonliability for peer review, 37-2-201.
Pharmacists not liable for peer review, 37-7-1101.
Release of information by physician concerning minor, 41-1-403.
Maintenance and confidentiality of records concerning persons with developmental disabilities, 53-20-161.
Confidentiality of records concerning mental illness, 53-21-166.

50-16-530. Disclosure without patient's authorization. A health care provider may disclose health care information about a patient without the patient's authorization if the disclosure is:

(1) directory information, unless the patient has instructed the health care provider not to make the disclosure;

(2) to federal, state, or local public health authorities, to the extent the health care provider is required by law to report health care information or when needed to protect the public health;

(3) to federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities to the extent required by law;

(4) to a law enforcement officer about the general physical condition of a patient being treated in a health care facility if the patient was injured on a public roadway or was injured by the possible criminal act of another;

(5) in response to a request of the office of victims services for information under 53-9-104(2)(b);

(6) pursuant to compulsory process in accordance with 50-16-535 and 50-16-536;

(7) pursuant to 50-16-712; or

(8) to the state medical examiner or a county coroner for use in determining cause of death. The information is required to be held confidential as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

50-16-531. Immunity of health care providers pursuant to written authorization — form required. A health care provider who discloses health care information within the possession of the provider, including health care information from another provider, is immune from any civil cause of action by the patient or the patient's heirs or successors in interest that is based upon delivery to the patient or the patient's designee of health care information concerning the patient that is contained in the health care provider's patient file if the information is disclosed in accordance with a written authorization using the following language:

"All health care information in your possession, whether generated by you or by any other source, may be released to me or to ....(named person) for ....(purpose of the disclosure). This release is subject to revocation at any time. The revocation is effective from the time it is communicated to the health care provider. If not revoked, the release terminates in accordance with 50-16-527.

....

(Signature of patient)"

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 1993.

50-16-532 through 50-16-534 reserved.

50-16-535. When health care information available by compulsory process. (1) Health care information may not be disclosed by a health care provider pursuant to compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless:

(a) the patient has authorized in writing the release of the health care information in response to compulsory process or a discovery request;

(b) the patient has waived the right to claim confidentiality for the health care information sought;

(c) the patient is a party to the proceeding and has placed the patient's physical or mental condition in issue;

(d) the patient's physical or mental condition is relevant to the execution or witnessing of a will or other document;

(e) the physical or mental condition of a deceased patient is placed in issue by any person claiming or defending through or as a beneficiary of the patient;

(f) a patient's health care information is to be used in the patient's commitment proceeding;

(g) the health care information is for use in any law enforcement proceeding or investigation in which a health care provider is the subject or a party, except that health care information so obtained may not be used in any proceeding against the patient unless the matter relates to payment for the patient's health care or unless authorized under subsection (1)(j);

(h) the health care information is relevant to a proceeding brought under 50-16-551 through 50-16-553;

(i) the health care information is relevant to a proceeding brought under Title 41, chapter 3;

(j) a court has determined that particular health care information is subject to compulsory legal process or discovery because the party seeking the information has demonstrated that there is a compelling state interest that outweighs the patient's privacy interest; or

(k) the health care information is requested pursuant to an investigative subpoena issued under 46-4-301 or a similar federal law.

(2) This part does not authorize the disclosure of health care information by compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding in which disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Discrimination based on vaccination status or possession of immunity passport prohibited — definitions, 49-2-312.

Government health care information — legal proceedings, 50-16-605.

50-16-536. Method of compulsory process. (1) Unless the court for good cause shown determines that the notification should be waived or modified, if health care information is sought under 50-16-535(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding or investigation under 50-16-535(1)(j), the person seeking discovery or compulsory process shall mail a notice by first-class mail to the patient or the patient's attorney of record of the compulsory process or discovery request at least 10 days before presenting the certificate required under subsection (2) of this section to the health care provider.

(2) Service of compulsory process or discovery requests upon a health care provider must be accompanied by a written certification, signed by the person seeking to obtain health care information or by the person's authorized representative, identifying at least one subsection of 50-16-535 under which compulsory process or discovery is being sought. The certification must also state, in the case of information sought under 50-16-535(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding under 50-16-535(1)(j), that the requirements of subsection (1) of this section for notice have been met. A person may sign the certification only if the person reasonably believes that the subsection of 50-16-535 identified in the certification provides an appropriate basis for the use of discovery or compulsory process. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the health care provider shall maintain a copy of the process and the written certification as a permanent part of the patient's health care information.

(3) In response to service of compulsory process or discovery requests, when authorized by law, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information. Additionally, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information under 50-16-542(1). If access to requested health care information is denied by the health care provider under 50-16-542(1), the health care provider shall submit to the court by affidavit or other reasonable means an explanation of why the health care provider believes the information should be protected from disclosure.

(4) When access to health care information is denied under 50-16-542(1), the court may order disclosure of health care information, with or without restrictions as to its use, as the court considers necessary. In deciding whether to order disclosure, the court shall consider the explanation submitted by the health care provider, the reasons for denying access to health care information set forth in 50-16-542(1), and any arguments presented by interested parties.

(5) A health care provider required to disclose health care information pursuant to compulsory process may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, and may deny examination or copying of the information until the fee is paid.

(6) Production of health care information under 50-16-535 and this section does not in itself constitute a waiver of any privilege, objection, or defense existing under other law or rule of evidence or procedure.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 300, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

50-16-537 through 50-16-539 reserved.

50-16-540. Reasonable fees allowed. A reasonable fee for providing health care information may not exceed 50 cents for each page for a paper copy or photocopy. A reasonable fee may include an administrative fee that may not exceed $15 for searching and handling recorded health care information.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

50-16-541. Requirements and procedures for patient's examination and copying. (1) Upon receipt of a written request from a patient to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information, a health care provider, as promptly as required under the circumstances but no later than 10 days after receiving the request, shall:

(a) make the information available to the patient for examination, without charge, during regular business hours or provide a copy, if requested, to the patient;

(b) inform the patient if the information does not exist or cannot be found;

(c) if the health care provider does not maintain a record of the information, inform the patient and provide the name and address, if known, of the health care provider who maintains the record;

(d) if the information is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed handling the request, inform the patient and specify in writing the reasons for the delay and the earliest date, not later than 21 days after receiving the request, when the information will be available for examination or copying or when the request will be otherwise disposed of; or

(e) deny the request in whole or in part under 50-16-542 and inform the patient.

(2) Upon request, the health care provider shall provide an explanation of any code or abbreviation used in the health care information. If a record of the particular health care information requested is not maintained by the health care provider in the requested form, the health care provider is not required to create a new record or reformulate an existing record to make the information available in the requested form. The health care provider may charge a reasonable fee for each request, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-540, for providing the health care information and is not required to provide copies until the fee is paid.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

50-16-542. Denial of examination and copying. (1) A health care provider may deny access to health care information by a patient if the health care provider reasonably concludes that:

(a) knowledge of the health care information would be injurious to the health of the patient;

(b) knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to lead to the patient's identification of an individual who provided the information in confidence and under circumstances in which confidentiality was appropriate;

(c) knowledge of the health care information could reasonably be expected to cause danger to the life or safety of any individual;

(d) the health care information is data, as defined in 50-16-201, that is compiled and used solely for utilization review, peer review, medical ethics review, quality assurance, or quality improvement;

(e) the health care information might contain information protected from disclosure pursuant to 50-15-121 and 50-15-122;

(f) the health care provider obtained the information from a person other than the patient; or

(g) access to the health care information is otherwise prohibited by law.

(2) Except as provided in 50-16-521, a health care provider may deny access to health care information by a patient who is a minor if:

(a) the patient is committed to a mental health facility; or

(b) the patient's parents or guardian has not authorized the health care provider to disclose the patient's health care information.

(3) If a health care provider denies a request for examination and copying under this section, the provider, to the extent possible, shall segregate health care information for which access has been denied under subsection (1) from information for which access cannot be denied and permit the patient to examine or copy the information subject to disclosure.

(4) If a health care provider denies a patient's request for examination and copying, in whole or in part, under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(c), the provider shall permit examination and copying of the record by the patient's spouse, adult child, or parent or guardian or by another health care provider who is providing health care services to the patient for the same condition as the health care provider denying the request. The health care provider denying the request shall inform the patient of the patient's right to select another health care provider under this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 657, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 515, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 359, L. 2001.

50-16-543. Request for correction or amendment. (1) For purposes of accuracy or completeness, a patient may request in writing that a health care provider correct or amend its record of the patient's health care information to which the provider has access under 50-16-541.

(2) As promptly as required under the circumstances but no later than 10 days after receiving a request from a patient to correct or amend its record of the patient's health care information, the health care provider shall:

(a) make the requested correction or amendment and inform the patient of the action and of the patient's right to have the correction or amendment sent to previous recipients of the health care information in question;

(b) inform the patient if the record no longer exists or cannot be found;

(c) if the health care provider does not maintain the record, inform the patient and provide the patient with the name and address, if known, of the person who maintains the record;

(d) if the record is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed the handling of the correction or amendment request, inform the patient and specify in writing the earliest date, not later than 21 days after receiving the request, when the correction or amendment will be made or when the request will otherwise be disposed of; or

(e) inform the patient in writing of the provider's refusal to correct or amend the record as requested, the reason for the refusal, and the patient's right to add a statement of disagreement and to have that statement sent to previous recipients of the disputed health care information.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1825, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-16-544. Procedure for adding correction, amendment, or statement of disagreement. (1) In making a correction or amendment, the health care provider shall:

(a) add the amending information as a part of the health record; and

(b) mark the challenged entries as corrected or amended entries and indicate the place in the record where the corrected or amended information is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

(2) If the health care provider maintaining the record of the patient's health care information refuses to make the patient's proposed correction or amendment, the provider shall:

(a) permit the patient to file as a part of the record of the patient's health care information a concise statement of the correction or amendment requested and the reasons for the correction or amendment; and

(b) mark the challenged entry to indicate that the patient claims the entry is inaccurate or incomplete and indicate the place in the record where the statement of disagreement is located, in a manner practicable under the circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1826, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-16-545. Dissemination of corrected or amended information or statement of disagreement. (1) A health care provider, upon request of a patient, shall take reasonable steps to provide copies of corrected or amended information or of a statement of disagreement to all persons designated by the patient and identified in the health care information as having examined or received copies of the information sought to be corrected or amended.

(2) A health care provider may charge the patient a reasonable fee, not exceeding the fee provided for in 50-16-540, for distributing corrected or amended information or the statement of disagreement, unless the provider's error necessitated the correction or amendment.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 300, L. 1999.

50-16-546 through 50-16-550 reserved.

50-16-551. Criminal penalty. (1) A person who by means of bribery, theft, or misrepresentation of identity, purpose of use, or entitlement to the information examines or obtains, in violation of this part, health care information maintained by a health care provider is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding $10,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 1 year, or both.

(2) A person who, knowing that a certification under 50-16-536(2) or a disclosure authorization under 50-16-526 and 50-16-527 is false, purposely presents the certification or disclosure authorization to a health care provider is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not exceeding $10,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Government health care information — penalty, 50-16-611.

Unauthorized divulgence of serological test information, 50-19-108.

50-16-552. Civil enforcement. The attorney general or appropriate county attorney may maintain a civil action to enforce this part. The court may order any relief authorized by 50-16-553.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 632, L. 1987.

50-16-553. Civil remedies. (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part may maintain an action for relief as provided in this section.

(2) The court may order the health care provider or other person to comply with this part and may order any other appropriate relief.

(3) A health care provider who relies in good faith upon a certification pursuant to 50-16-536(2) is not liable for disclosures made in reliance on that certification.

(4) A disciplinary or punitive action may not be taken against a health care provider or the provider's employee or agent who brings evidence of a violation of this part to the attention of the patient or an appropriate authority.

(5) In an action by a patient alleging that health care information was improperly withheld under 50-16-541 and 50-16-542, the burden of proof is on the health care provider to establish that the information was properly withheld.

(6) If the court determines that there is a violation of this part, the aggrieved person is entitled to recover damages for pecuniary losses sustained as a result of the violation and, in addition, if the violation results from willful or grossly negligent conduct, the aggrieved person may recover not in excess of $5,000, exclusive of any pecuniary loss.

(7) If a plaintiff prevails, the court may assess reasonable attorney fees and all other expenses reasonably incurred in the litigation.

(8) An action under this part is barred unless the action is commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1827, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 6
Government Health Care Information

Part Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

50-16-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Government Health Care Information Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

50-16-602. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) (a) "Health care information" means information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of an individual, including one who is deceased, and that relates to that individual's health care or status. The term includes any record of disclosures of health care information and any information about an individual received pursuant to state law or rules relating to communicable disease.

(b) The term does not include vital statistics information gathered under Title 50, chapter 15.

(3) "Local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health provided for in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1.

(4) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by a local board.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 286, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Uniform health care information — definition of health care information, 50-16-504.

50-16-603. Confidentiality of health care information. Health care information in the possession of the department, a local board, a local health officer, or the entity's authorized representatives may not be released except:

(1) for statistical purposes, if no identification of individuals can be made from the information released;

(2) when the health care information pertains to a person who has given written consent to the release and has specified the type of information to be released and the person or entity to whom it may be released;

(3) to medical personnel in a medical emergency as necessary to protect the health, life, or well-being of the named person;

(4) as allowed by Title 50, chapters 17 and 18;

(5) to another state or local public health agency, including those in other states, whenever necessary to continue health services to the named person or to undertake public health efforts to prevent or interrupt the transmission of a communicable disease or to alleviate and prevent injury caused by the release of biological, chemical, or radiological agents capable of causing imminent disability, death, or infection;

(6) in the case of a minor, as required by 41-3-201 or pursuant to an investigation or a safety and risk assessment under 41-3-202 or if the health care information is to be presented as evidence in a court proceeding involving child abuse pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3. Documents containing the information must be sealed by the court upon conclusion of the proceedings.

(7) to medical personnel, the department, a local health officer or board, or a district court when necessary to implement or enforce state statutes or state or local health rules concerning the prevention or control of diseases designated as reportable pursuant to 50-1-202, if the release does not conflict with any other provision contained in this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 391, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 504, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 382, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Uniform health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-16-604. Secondary release of health care information. Information released pursuant to 50-16-603 may not be released by the person or entity it is released to unless the release conforms to the requirements of 50-16-603.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

50-16-605. Judicial, legislative, and administrative proceedings — testimony. (1) An officer or employee of the department may not be examined in a judicial, legislative, administrative, or other proceeding about the existence or content of records containing individually identifiable health care information, including the results of investigations, unless all individuals whose names appear in the records give written consent to the release of information identifying them.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the health care information is to be released pursuant to 50-16-603(6) and (7).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 481, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Uniform health care information — when available by compulsory process, 50-16-535.

50-16-606. Correlation with Uniform Health Care Information Act. Health care information in the possession of a local board, local health officer, or the department because a health care provider employed by any of these entities provided health care to a patient, either individually or at a public health center or other publicly owned health care facility, is subject to the Uniform Health Care Information Act and not subject to this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-16-607 through 50-16-610 reserved.

50-16-611. Penalty. A person who knowingly violates the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $500 or more than $10,000, be imprisoned in the county jail not less than 3 months or more than 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 481, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Uniform health care information — criminal penalty, 50-16-551.

Part 7
Report of Exposure to Infectious Disease

Part Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Duty to report cases of communicable disease, 37-2-301.
Duty to report cases of sexually transmitted diseases, 50-18-106.

50-16-701. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Airborne infectious disease" means an infectious disease transmitted from person to person by an aerosol, including but not limited to infectious tuberculosis.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Designated officer" means the emergency services organization's representative and the alternate whose names are on record with the department as the persons responsible for notifying an emergency services provider of exposure.

(4) "Emergency services organization" means a public or private organization that provides emergency services to the public.

(5) "Emergency services provider" means a person employed by or acting as a volunteer with an emergency services organization, including but not limited to a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency care provider, corrections officer, or ambulance service attendant.

(6) "Exposure" means the subjecting of a person to a risk of transmission of an infectious disease through the commingling of the blood or bodily fluids of the person and a patient or in another manner as defined by department rule.

(7) "Health care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101 and includes a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102.

(8) "Infectious disease" means human immunodeficiency virus infection, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, communicable pulmonary tuberculosis, meningococcal meningitis, and any other disease capable of being transmitted through an exposure that has been designated by department rule.

(9) "Infectious disease control officer" means the person designated by the health care facility as the person who is responsible for notifying the emergency services provider's designated officer and the department of an infectious disease as provided for in this part and by rule.

(10) "Patient" means an individual who is sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 287, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 220, L. 2019.

50-16-702. Notification of exposure to infectious disease — report of exposure to disease. (1) (a) If an emergency services provider acting in an official capacity attends a patient prior to or during transport or assists in transporting a patient to a health care facility and the emergency services provider has had an exposure, the emergency services provider may request the designated officer to submit the form required by department rule to the health care facility on the emergency services provider's behalf. The form must be provided for in rules adopted by the department and must include the emergency services provider's name and other information required by the department, including a description of the exposure. The designated officer shall submit the completed form to the health care facility receiving the patient as soon as possible after the request for submission by the emergency services provider. Submission of the form to the health care facility is an indication that the emergency services provider was exposed and a verification that the designated officer and the emergency services provider believe that the emergency services provider was exposed.

(b) If the exposure described on the form occurred in a manner that may allow infection by HIV, as defined in 50-16-1003, by a mode of transmission recognized by the U.S. department of health and human services, centers for disease control and prevention, then submission of the form to the health care facility constitutes a request to the patient's physician to perform an HIV diagnostic test pursuant to 50-16-1014.

(c) Upon receipt of the report of exposure from a designated officer, the health care facility shall notify the designated officer in writing whether or not a determination has been made that the patient has or does not have an infectious disease. If a determination has been made and the patient has been found:

(i) to have an infectious disease, the information required by 50-16-703 must be provided by the health care facility;

(ii) to not have an infectious disease, the date on which the patient was transported to the health care facility must be provided by the health care facility.

(2) If a health care facility receiving a patient determines that the patient has an airborne infectious disease, the health care facility shall, within 48 hours after the determination was made, notify the designated officer and the department of that fact. The notice to the department must include the name of the emergency services organization that transported the patient to the health care facility. The department shall, within 24 hours after receiving the notice, notify the designated officer of the emergency services provider who transported the patient.

(3) A designated officer who receives the notification from a health care facility required by 50-16-703(2) or by subsection (1)(c) of this section shall immediately provide the information contained in the notification to the emergency services provider for whom the report of exposure was filed or who was exposed to a patient with an airborne infectious disease.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

50-16-703. Notification of precautions after exposure to infectious disease. (1) After a patient is transported to a health care facility and if a physician determines that the transported patient has an infectious disease, the physician shall inform the infectious disease control officer of the health care facility of the determination within 24 hours after the determination is made.

(2) If it is determined that the infectious disease is airborne or a report of exposure was filed concerning the patient under 50-16-702, the health care facility shall provide the notification required by subsection (3) orally within 48 hours after the time of diagnosis and in writing within 72 hours after diagnosis to the designated officer of each emergency services organization known to the health care facility to have provided emergency services to the patient prior to or during transportation to the health care facility.

(3) The notification must state the disease to which the emergency services provider was exposed, the appropriate medical precautions and treatment that the exposed person needs to take, the date on which the patient was transported to the health care facility, and the time that the patient arrived at the facility.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

50-16-704. Confidentiality — penalty for violation — immunity from liability. (1) The name of the person diagnosed as having an infectious disease may not be released to anyone, including the emergency services provider who was exposed, nor may the name of the emergency services provider who was exposed be released to anyone other than the emergency services provider, except as required by this part, by department rule concerning reporting of communicable disease, or as allowed by Title 50, chapter 16, part 5.

(2) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $500 or more than $10,000, be imprisoned in the county jail not less than 3 months or more than 1 year, or both.

(3) A health care facility, a representative of a health care facility, a physician, or the designated officer of an emergency services provider's organization may not be held jointly or severally liable for providing the notification required by 50-16-703 when the notification is made in good faith or for failing to provide the notification if good faith attempts to contact an exposed person of exposure are unsuccessful.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Physician's immunity from liability, 37-2-312.

50-16-705. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt rules to:

(1) define what constitutes an exposure to an infectious disease;

(2) specify the infectious diseases subject to this part;

(3) specify the information about an exposure that must be included in a report of exposure;

(4) specify recommended medical precautions and treatment for each infectious disease subject to this part; and

(5) specify recordkeeping and reporting requirements necessary to ensure compliance with the notification requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 390, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-16-706 through 50-16-710 reserved.

50-16-711. Health care facility and emergency services organization responsibilities for tracking exposure to infectious disease. (1) The health care facility and the emergency services organization shall develop internal procedures for implementing the provisions of this part and department rules.

(2) The health care facility must have available at all times a person to receive the form provided for in 50-16-702 containing a report of exposure to infectious disease.

(3) The health care facility shall designate an infectious disease control officer and an alternate who will be responsible for maintaining the required records and notifying designated officers in accordance with the provisions of this part and the rules promulgated under this part and shall provide the names of the designated officer and the alternate to the department.

(4) The emergency services organization shall name a designated officer and an alternate and shall provide their names to the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 146, L. 1999.

50-16-712. Notification to mortuary personnel — exposure to infectious disease. (1) A coroner, a health care facility, or a health care provider, as defined in 50-16-1003, shall disclose information regarding the status of a deceased individual with regard to an infectious disease to personnel from a mortuary licensed under Title 37, chapter 19, at the time of transfer of the dead body or as soon after transfer as possible. The information must include whether the individual had an infectious disease at the time of death and the nature of the infectious disease.

(2) The mortuary personnel who receive the information provided in subsection (1) may not disclose the information except for purposes related directly to the preparation and disposition of the dead body.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1995.

Part 8
Health Care Information Privacy Requirements for Providers Subject to HIPAA

50-16-801. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

(1) health care information is personal and sensitive information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy and health care or other interests;

(2) the enactment of federal health care privacy legislation and the adoption of rules pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., provide significant privacy protection for health care information with respect to health care providers subject to HIPAA;

(3) for health care providers subject to the health care information privacy protections of HIPAA, the applicability of the provisions of Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, relating to health care privacy is unnecessary and may result in significant practical difficulties;

(4) it is in the best interest of the citizens of Montana to have certain requirements, with respect to the use or release of health care information by health care providers, that are more restrictive than or additional to the health care privacy protections of HIPAA.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

50-16-802. Applicability. This part applies only to health care providers subject to the health care information privacy protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and administrative rules adopted in connection with HIPAA.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

50-16-803. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Health care" means care, services, or supplies provided by a health care provider that are related to the health of an individual. Health care includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance, or palliative care and counseling, service, assessment, or procedure with respect to an individual's physical or mental condition; or

(b) the sale or dispensing of any drug, device, equipment, or other item in accordance with a prescription.

(2) "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients.

(3) "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that:

(a) is created or received by a health care provider;

(b) relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual or to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual; and

(c) identifies or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

(4) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(5) "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "Reasonable fee" means the charge, as provided for in 50-16-816, for duplicating, searching for, or handling recorded health care information.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 396, L. 2003.

50-16-804. Representative of deceased patient's estate. Except as provided in 50-19-402, a personal representative of a deceased patient's estate may exercise all of the deceased patient's rights under this part. If there is no personal representative or upon discharge of the personal representative, a deceased patient's rights under this part may be exercised by the surviving spouse, a parent, an adult child, an adult sibling, or any other person who is authorized by law to act for the deceased person.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 235, L. 2017.

50-16-805. Disclosure of information allowed for certain purposes. (1) To the extent provided in 39-71-604 and 50-16-527, a signed claim for workers' compensation or occupational disease benefits authorizes disclosure to the workers' compensation insurer, as defined in 39-71-116, by the health care provider.

(2) A health care provider may disclose health care information about an individual for law enforcement purposes if the disclosure is to:

(a) federal, state, or local law enforcement authorities to the extent required by law; or

(b) a law enforcement officer about the general physical condition of a patient being treated in a health care facility if the patient was injured by the possible criminal act of another.

(3) A health care provider may disclose health care information to a fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team for the purposes of 50-19-402.

(4) A health care employer, as defined in 39-2-221, may disclose information contained in written reports pursuant to 39-2-221 to the department of justice for data collection and reporting purposes. *(Subsection (4) terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 67, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 235, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.

50-16-806 through 50-16-810 reserved.

50-16-811. When health care information available by compulsory process. (1) Health care information may not be disclosed by a health care provider pursuant to compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless:

(a) the patient has authorized in writing the release of the health care information in response to compulsory process or a discovery request;

(b) the patient has waived the right to claim confidentiality for the health care information sought;

(c) the patient is a party to the proceeding and has placed the patient's physical or mental condition in issue;

(d) the patient's physical or mental condition is relevant to the execution or witnessing of a will or other document;

(e) the physical or mental condition of a deceased patient is placed in issue by any person claiming or defending through or as a beneficiary of the patient;

(f) a patient's health care information is to be used in the patient's commitment proceeding;

(g) the health care information is for use in any law enforcement proceeding or investigation in which a health care provider is the subject or a party, except that health care information so obtained may not be used in any proceeding against the patient unless the matter relates to payment for the patient's health care or unless authorized under subsection (1)(i);

(h) a court has determined that particular health care information is subject to compulsory legal process or discovery because the party seeking the information has demonstrated that there is a compelling state interest that outweighs the patient's privacy interest;

(i) the health care information is requested pursuant to an investigative subpoena issued under 46-4-301 or similar federal law; or

(j) the patient is deceased and the coroner requires the health care information for the investigation of the death as provided in Title 46, chapter 4, part 1.

(2) This part does not authorize the disclosure of health care information by compulsory legal process or discovery in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding where disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 2017.

50-16-812. Method of compulsory process. (1) Unless the court for good cause shown determines that the notification should be waived or modified, if health care information is sought under 50-16-811(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding or investigation under 50-16-811(1)(h), the person seeking compulsory process or discovery shall mail a notice by first-class mail to the patient or the patient's attorney of record of the compulsory process or discovery request at least 10 days before presenting the certificate required under subsection (2) of this section to the health care provider.

(2) Service of compulsory process or discovery requests upon a health care provider must be accompanied by a written certification, signed by the person seeking to obtain health care information or by the person's authorized representative, identifying at least one subsection of 50-16-811 under which compulsory process or discovery is being sought. The certification must also state, in the case of information sought under 50-16-811(1)(b), (1)(d), or (1)(e) or in a civil proceeding under 50-16-811(1)(h), that the requirements of subsection (1) of this section for notice have been met. A person may sign the certification only if the person reasonably believes that the subsection of 50-16-811 identified in the certification provides an appropriate basis for the use of compulsory process or discovery. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the health care provider shall maintain a copy of the process and the written certification as a permanent part of the patient's health care information.

(3) In response to service of compulsory process or discovery requests, when authorized by law, a health care provider may deny access to the requested health care information. If access to requested health care information is denied by the health care provider, the health care provider shall submit to the court by affidavit or other reasonable means an explanation of why the health care provider believes that the information should be protected from disclosure.

(4) When access to health care information is denied, the court may order disclosure of health care information, with or without restrictions as to its use, as the court considers necessary. In deciding whether to order disclosure, the court shall consider the explanation submitted by the health care provider and any arguments presented by interested parties.

(5) A health care provider required to disclose health care information pursuant to compulsory process may charge a reasonable fee, not to exceed the fee provided for in 50-16-816, and may deny examination or copying of the information until the fee is paid.

(6) Production of health care information under 50-16-811 and this section does not in itself constitute a waiver of any privilege, objection, or defense existing under other law or rule of evidence or procedure.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

50-16-813 through 50-16-815 reserved.

50-16-816. Reasonable fees. Unless prohibited by federal law, a reasonable fee for providing copies of health care information may not exceed 50 cents for each page for a paper copy or photocopy. A reasonable fee may include an administrative fee that may not exceed $15 for searching and handling recorded health care information.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

50-16-817. Civil remedies. (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part may maintain an action for relief as provided in this section.

(2) The court may order the health care provider or other person to comply with this part and may order any other appropriate relief.

(3) A disciplinary or punitive action may not be taken against a health care provider or the provider's employee or agent who brings evidence of a violation of this part to the attention of the patient or an appropriate authority.

(4) If the court determines that there is a violation of this part, the aggrieved person is entitled to recover damages for pecuniary losses sustained as a result of the violation and, in addition, if the violation results from willful or grossly negligent conduct, the aggrieved person may recover not in excess of $5,000, exclusive of any pecuniary loss.

(5) If a plaintiff prevails, the court may assess reasonable attorney fees and all other expenses reasonably incurred in the litigation.

(6) An action under this part is barred unless the action is commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

(7) A health care provider who relies in good faith upon certification pursuant to 50-16-812 is considered to have received reasonable assurances and is not liable for disclosures made in reliance on that certification.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

50-16-818. Good faith. A person authorized to act as a health care representative for an individual with respect to the individual's health care information shall act in good faith to represent the best interests of the individual.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

Part 9 reserved

Part 10
AIDS Education and Prevention

Part Cross-References

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Uniform health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-16-1001. Short title. This part may be cited as the "AIDS Prevention Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 1989.**

50-16-1002. Statement of purpose. (1) The legislature recognizes that the epidemic of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and related medical conditions constitutes a serious danger to the public health and welfare. In the absence of a vaccine or a cure and because of the sexual and intravenous drug use behaviors by which the virus is predominantly spread, control of the epidemic is dependent on the education of those infected or at risk for infection.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that education directed at preventing the transmission of HIV be provided to those infected and at risk of infection and to entreat such persons to come forward to determine their HIV infection status and to obtain appropriate education.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1989.

50-16-1003. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "AIDS" means acquired immune deficiency syndrome as further defined by the department in accordance with standards promulgated by the U.S. department of health and human services, centers for disease control and prevention.

(2) "Antiretroviral prophylaxis" means a specific drug regime preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV infections.

(3) "Contact" means a person who has been exposed to the test subject in a manner, voluntary or involuntary, that may allow HIV transmission in accordance with modes of transmission recognized by the U.S. department of health and human services, centers for disease control and prevention.

(4) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(5) "Health care facility" means a health care institution, private or public, including but not limited to a hospital, nursing home, clinic, blood bank, blood center, sperm bank, or laboratory.

(6) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state or who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of another state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession. The term does not include a person who provides health care solely through the sale or dispensing of drugs or medical devices.

(7) "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus, identified as the causative agent of AIDS, and all HIV and HIV-related viruses that damage the cellular branch of the human immune or neurological systems and leave the infected person immunodeficient or neurologically impaired.

(8) "HIV-related condition" means a chronic disease resulting from infection with HIV, including but not limited to AIDS and asymptomatic seropositivity for HIV.

(9) "HIV diagnostic test" means a test approved by the federal food and drug administration, including but not limited to an enzyme immunoassay and a western blot, that is designed to detect the presence of HIV or antibodies to HIV.

(10) "Local board" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(11) "Person" means an individual, corporation, organization, or other legal entity.

(12) "Rapid HIV diagnostic test" means a federally approved test designed to assist in time-sensitive diagnosis of HIV infections.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 288, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 524, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

50-16-1004. AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection to be treated as other communicable diseases. It is the intent of the legislature to treat AIDS, HIV-related conditions, and HIV infection in the same manner as other communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, by adopting the most currently accepted public health practices with regard to testing, reporting, partner notification, and disease intervention. Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the department from allowing testing for HIV infection to be performed and reported without identification of the subject of the test. The department shall adopt rules, as provided in 50-1-202, to reflect this policy.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Disclosure of communicable diseases, 50-16-603.
Sexually transmitted diseases, Title 50, ch. 18.

50-16-1005 and 50-16-1006 reserved.

50-16-1007. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 476, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 524, L. 1997.

50-16-1008. Testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required — penalty. (1) Prior to donation of an organ, semen, or tissues, HIV diagnostic testing of a prospective donor, in accordance with nationally accepted standards adopted by the department by rule, is required unless the transplantation of an indispensable organ is necessary to save a patient's life and there is not sufficient time to perform an HIV diagnostic test.

(2) A knowing or purposeful violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $1,000 or imprisonment of up to 6 months, or both.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

50-16-1009. Confidentiality of records — notification of contacts — penalty for unlawful disclosure. (1) A person may not disclose or be compelled to disclose the identity of a subject of an HIV diagnostic test or the results of a test in a manner that permits identification of the subject of the test, except to the extent allowed under the Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, the Government Health Care Information Act, Title 50, chapter 16, part 6, or applicable federal law.

(2) If a health care provider informs the subject of an HIV diagnostic test that the results are positive, the provider shall encourage the subject to notify persons who are potential contacts. If the subject is unable or unwilling to notify all contacts, the health care provider may ask the subject to disclose voluntarily the identities of the contacts and to authorize notification of those contacts by a health care provider. A notification may state only that the contact may have been exposed to HIV and may not include the time or place of possible exposure or the identity of the subject of the test.

(3) A person who discloses or compels another to disclose confidential health care information in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of $1,000 or imprisonment for 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

50-16-1010 through 50-16-1012 reserved.

50-16-1013. Civil remedy. (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this part has a right of action in the district court and may recover for each violation:

(a) against a person who negligently violates a provision of this part, damages of $5,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(b) against a person who intentionally or recklessly violates a provision of this part, damages of $20,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(c) reasonable attorney fees; and

(d) other appropriate relief, including injunctive relief.

(2) An action under this section must be commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

(3) The department may maintain a civil action to enforce this part in which the court may order any relief permitted under subsection (1).

(4) Nothing in this section limits the rights of a subject of an HIV diagnostic test to recover damages or other relief under any other applicable law or cause of action.

(5) Nothing in this part may be construed to impose civil liability or criminal sanctions for disclosure of an HIV diagnostic test result in accordance with any reporting requirement for a diagnosed case of AIDS or an HIV-related condition by the department or the U.S. department of health and human services, centers for disease control and prevention.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 614, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 544, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-16-1014. Screening and pretest information. (1) Screening for HIV-related conditions must be considered routine and must be incorporated into the patient's general informed consent for medical care on the same basis as other screening and diagnostic tests.

(2) Screening for HIV-related conditions must be voluntary and undertaken with the patient's knowledge and understanding that HIV diagnostic testing is planned.

(3) Patients must be informed orally or in writing that HIV diagnostic testing will be performed.

(4) If a patient declines an HIV diagnostic test, this decision must be documented in the patient's medical record.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

50-16-1015. Prenatal HIV screening. (1) Screening for HIV-related conditions must be considered routine and must be incorporated into the pregnant patient's general informed consent for medical care on the same basis as other routine prenatal screening and diagnostic tests.

(2) Screening for HIV-related conditions in pregnant patients must be voluntary and undertaken with the patient's knowledge and understanding that HIV diagnostic testing is planned.

(3) Pregnant patients must be informed orally or in writing that HIV diagnostic testing will be performed.

(4) If a pregnant patient declines an HIV diagnostic test, this decision must be documented in the patient's medical record.

(5) Physicians and other health care providers licensed to provide prenatal care to pregnant women may:

(a) offer an HIV diagnostic test in the third trimester to pregnant women who were not tested earlier in the pregnancy; and

(b) offer a repeat HIV diagnostic test in the third trimester of pregnancy, preferably before 36 weeks of gestation, to each of their pregnant patients at high risk for acquiring HIV-related conditions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

50-16-1016. Labor and delivery HIV screening. Physicians and other health care providers licensed to provide prenatal care to pregnant women shall, if medically indicated:

(1) offer a rapid HIV diagnostic test to pregnant women in labor with unknown or undocumented HIV status;

(2) offer antiretroviral prophylaxis without waiting for the results of the confirmatory test if a rapid HIV diagnostic test or a standard HIV diagnostic test is positive.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 362, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 17
DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Part 1 — Tuberculosis Control

50-17-101. Policy of state.
50-17-102. Definitions.
50-17-103. Powers and duties of department.
50-17-104. Repealed.
50-17-105. Application to require examination or treatment for tuberculosis.
50-17-106. Hearing on the application.
50-17-107. Adjudication of application.
50-17-108. Commitment on noncompliance with order to be examined or treated.
50-17-109. Order of commitment — warrant for transportation.
50-17-110. Confinement in hospital or treatment location — submission to treatment.
50-17-111. Transfer of person to another treatment location.
50-17-112. Procedure to obtain release from commitment.
50-17-113. Voluntary release.
50-17-114. Payment of costs, expenses, and fees.
50-17-115. Emergency detainment — petition — detention.

Part 2 — Cardiovascular Disease

50-17-201. Department monitoring of acute heart attack data — reporting requirement.
50-17-202. Reporting and review of acute heart attack data.
50-17-203. Confidentiality.

Part 1
Tuberculosis Control

Part Cross-References

Municipal power to establish detention hospital to prevent spread of disease, 7-34-4101.
Montana State Hospital, 53-21-601.
Quarantine for tuberculosis control in livestock, Title 81, ch. 2, part 1.

50-17-101. Policy of state. It is the public policy of the state to:

(1) protect persons from the danger of tuberculosis;

(2) provide and maintain a comprehensive program for the prevention, abatement, and adequate control working toward eradication of the disease;

(3) cooperate with other state agencies and the federal government in carrying out these objectives.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1985.

50-17-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Acute heart attack" means a heart attack that involves a prolonged period of blocked blood supply, affects a large area of the heart, and is measured by an elevation of the ST segment of an electrocardiogram.

(2) "Approved course of treatment" means a course of treatment for tuberculosis that includes medical treatment prescribed by a physician and consistent with accepted medical standards, as well as appropriate followup to ensure public health and safety as set out in the rules of the department.

(3) "Critical access hospital" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(4) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(5) "Emergency medical service" has the meaning provided in 50-6-302.

(6) "Hospital" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101 and includes a rural emergency hospital as defined in 50-5-101.

(7) "Local board" means a city, county, city-county, or district board of health.

(8) "Receiving hospital" means a hospital capable of performing coronary revascularization for a patient suffering an acute heart attack.

(9) "Treatment location" or "location" means a hospital or other place designated by a local health officer where the person diagnosed with tuberculosis must remain to be available for an approved course of treatment.

(10) (a) "Tuberculosis" means a disease caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis or mycobacterium tuberculosis complex.

(b) The term does not include infection by mycobacterium bovis in a nonpulmonary site that is a result of instillation of bacille calmette-guerin as part of cancer therapy.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3) En. Sec. 25, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4302, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(2), 69-4302; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 289, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 400, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 602, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 602, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

50-17-103. Powers and duties of department. (1) The department shall:

(a) accept, spend, and distribute federal funds available for tuberculosis control;

(b) collect and study data on the incidence of tuberculosis;

(c) adopt rules for the determination and control of tuberculosis.

(2) The department may, if appropriate, contract with federal agencies or other state agencies for receipt and expenditure of federal funds.

History: En. Secs. 26, 27, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 45, 104, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4303, 69-4304; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 61, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Department empowered to control communicable diseases, 50-1-202.

50-17-104. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 579, L. 1993.

History: En. Secs. 39, 40, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 46, 47, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4316(part), 69-4317; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 61, L. 1985.

50-17-105. Application to require examination or treatment for tuberculosis. (1) The department or a local board may apply for an order from the district court if a person is reasonably suspected to have or to have been exposed to tuberculosis, upon request of:

(a) a physician legally authorized to practice medicine in the state;

(b) the department; or

(c) a local health officer.

(2) The application must request that the person be ordered to:

(a) submit to an examination for tuberculosis and, if the person is found to have tuberculosis, to complete an approved course of treatment; or

(b) enter or return to a treatment location to complete an approved course of treatment.

(3) The application for an order provided for in subsections (1) and (2) of this section must allege that the person:

(a) is suspected of having tuberculosis or has been exposed to tuberculosis and has refused to be examined for tuberculosis as required by rules adopted by the department; or

(b) has tuberculosis and has refused to be treated or to complete an approved course of treatment.

(4) The application must state the names of witnesses by which facts alleged may be proved. At least one witness must be a physician.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 28, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4305, R.C.M. 1947; (3), (4)En. Sec. 29, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4306, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4305, 69-4306; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 190, L. 2001.

50-17-106. Hearing on the application. The procedure for a hearing on the application is as follows:

(1) A summons stating the time and place of the hearing and a copy of the application are personally served on the person.

(2) The summons, with endorsement of the time of service, is filed with the district court prior to the hearing.

(3) Not fewer than 3 or more than 7 days after service of the summons, a hearing is held in the district court.

(4) The court examines witnesses in attendance or others it wishes to call.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4307.

Cross-References

"Contested case" defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-17-107. Adjudication of application. Following the hearing, the court shall find that the allegations of the application are:

(1) true and order the person to enter or return to a treatment location for treatment;

(2) true and order the person to submit to an examination for tuberculosis at a hospital within a specified time and to complete an approved course of treatment if the person is found to have tuberculosis; or

(3) not true and order the person discharged.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4308; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 190, L. 2001.

50-17-108. Commitment on noncompliance with order to be examined or treated. (1) If a person fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to 50-17-107 to submit to an examination for tuberculosis within the time set, the court shall order the person committed to a hospital to determine if the person has tuberculosis and, if so, whether the person is infectious.

(2) If a person fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to 50-17-107 to complete an approved course of treatment, the court shall order the person to be restricted to a treatment location to complete an approved course of treatment under the supervision of a local health officer, the officer's designee, or a physician or other health care professional designated by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 32, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4309; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 190, L. 2001.**

50-17-109. Order of commitment — warrant for transportation. If a person is committed pursuant to 50-17-108 to a hospital for examination or to a treatment location for treatment, the court shall:

(1) send certified copies of an order of commitment to:

(a) the hospital at which the person is to be examined; or

(b) the person who will supervise the course of treatment at the treatment location; and

(c) the department and local board of health; and

(2) issue a warrant directed to the sheriff to transport the person to the designated hospital or treatment location.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4310; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 190, L. 2001.**

50-17-110. Confinement in hospital or treatment location — submission to treatment. (1) A person committed under 50-17-107 or 50-17-108 shall remain at the hospital or treatment location until discharged under 50-17-112 or 50-17-113. However, the person is not required to submit to medical or surgical treatment without the person's written consent, the consent of the person's next of kin or guardian if the person is incompetent, or the consent of the person's parent or guardian if the person is a minor.

(2) The person in charge of the hospital or the person supervising an approved course of treatment for a person at a treatment location may use reasonable means to ensure that the person committed remains at the hospital or location.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4311; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 190, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Validity of consent for medical treatment, Title 41, ch. 1, part 4.

Guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

50-17-111. Transfer of person to another treatment location. If it is in the best interest of a person committed to a treatment location, the person may be transferred from the location to which the person was committed to another location approved by the department. The person in charge of the approved course of treatment at the location to which the person was committed shall notify the court that ordered commitment, and the department or local board that requested commitment, of the transfer.

History: **En. Sec. 37, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4314; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 190, L. 2001.**

50-17-112. Procedure to obtain release from commitment. (1) One hundred and eighty days or more after the date of commitment, a person committed under 50-17-107 or 50-17-108 may apply to the court that ordered the person's commitment for a release.

(2) Not fewer than 3 or more than 7 days after receipt of the request, the court shall hold a hearing.

(3) Following the hearing, the court shall:

(a) order the person's discharge if it finds that the person has completed an approved course of treatment or does not have tuberculosis; or

(b) dismiss the request if it finds that the person still has tuberculosis or that the person has refused to submit to an examination to determine whether the person has tuberculosis or has not yet completed an approved course of treatment.

History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4312; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1828, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-17-113. Voluntary release. (1) If the physician for the person at the hospital or treatment location where the person has been committed and the department or local board that requested commitment concur that a person either does not have tuberculosis or has completed an approved course of treatment, the person must be released from the hospital or treatment location.

(2) The department or local board of health that requested commitment shall file a notice of date of release with the court that ordered commitment.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4313; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 61, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 190, L. 2001.

50-17-114. Payment of costs, expenses, and fees. (1) Court costs, expenses, and all fees must be paid by the treasurer of the county from which a person is committed.

(2) Expenses and fees must be paid as follows:

(a) to sheriffs and their deputies, the same fees allowed for similar services in district court;

(b) to physicians, not to exceed two, fees as set by the court;

(c) to witnesses, the same fees and mileage provided for attendance in district court;

(d) to persons other than the sheriff or the sheriff's deputies who transport a person to or from a hospital or treatment location, witness fees and expenses as verified by the court.

(3) Expenses of transporting a person to a hospital or treatment location for commitment must be paid from the general fund of the county from which the person is committed.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 38, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4315, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 39, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4316, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4315, 69-4316(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 190, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Mileage allowance, 2-18-503, 2-18-504, 3-15-201.
Mileage and expenses of Sheriff, 7-32-2143.
Witness fees, Title 26, ch. 2, part 5.

50-17-115. Emergency detainment — petition — detention. (1) If a physician, the department, or a local health officer reasonably believes that a person has tuberculosis and that the person is likely to attempt to leave the jurisdiction to avoid a hearing on commitment, the physician, department, or local health officer shall notify the sheriff of the county in which the person is found, who shall cause the person to be detained in a hospital. At least by the next regular business day, the physician, department, or local health officer shall petition for an order from the district court of the county in which the person is found for continued detention of the person and to require examination or treatment for tuberculosis pursuant to 50-17-105. The sheriff must serve the summons required by 50-17-106 on the person the same day the petition is filed.

(2) Immediately after the petition is filed the court will decide whether further emergency detention is required and may order continued hospital detention of the person for no more than 7 days if it finds that the person is an unacceptable danger to the public health and safety in that the person probably has tuberculosis and unless detained will probably leave the jurisdiction to avoid a hearing pursuant to this part.

(3) The district court of the county in which the person is found has jurisdiction over the person for the purposes of this section. The district court may, in the interests of justice, order that jurisdiction over further proceedings be transferred to the district court of the county of the person's residence.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 190, L. 2001.

Part 2
Cardiovascular Disease

50-17-201. Department monitoring of acute heart attack data — reporting requirement. (1) The department shall undertake the following activities to achieve continuous quality improvement in the response to and treatment of acute heart attacks:

(a) monitor data reported to and analyses generated by a national data platform, including prehospital, hospital, and posthospital measures;

(b) identify potential interventions or practices to improve the response to acute heart attacks in Montana or in specific regions of the state;

(c) work with hospitals, critical access hospitals, and emergency medical service providers on the reporting of data and on using the results of data analysis; and

(d) make recommendations to the legislature and to hospitals, critical access hospitals, emergency medical service providers, and health care providers on ways to improve the response to and delivery of care for acute heart attacks.

(2) The department shall coordinate its efforts under this part with state and national organizations involved in quality improvement for acute heart attacks in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

(3) The department shall establish an oversight process and implement a plan for achieving continuous quality improvement in the quality of care provided for acute heart attacks, including the system response to and the treatment of acute heart attacks.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 400, L. 2017.

50-17-202. Reporting and review of acute heart attack data. To improve the response to and treatment of acute heart attacks, the department shall:

(1) require receiving hospitals to report to the national data platform information consistent with nationally recognized guidelines on the treatment of individuals with confirmed acute heart attacks;

(2) encourage hospitals, critical access hospitals, and emergency medical service providers that refer patients suffering acute heart attacks to a receiving hospital to participate in the national data platform;

(3) encourage health care professionals who provide care to patients with acute heart attacks to share data and discuss ways to improve the quality of care for the patients;

(4) encourage the use of evidence-based treatment guidelines for helping patients obtain ongoing community-based followup care in outpatient settings after discharge from a hospital; and

(5) work with hospitals, critical access hospitals, and emergency medical service providers to develop recommendations for improving the delivery of care to patients suffering acute heart attacks.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 400, L. 2017.

50-17-203. Confidentiality. (1) In reporting and reviewing data pursuant to this part, the department, hospitals, critical access hospitals, emergency medical service providers, and health care professionals shall comply with any restrictions established on use of the information contained in the data platform the department is monitoring.

(2) Information obtained by the department pursuant to this part may be released only in a statistical, nonidentifiable form.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 400, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 18
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-18-101. Sexually transmitted diseases defined.
50-18-102. Powers and duties of department.
50-18-103. Cooperation with federal agencies — federal funds.
50-18-104. Serological test for syphilis.
50-18-105. Rules of department binding.
50-18-106. Duty to report cases.
50-18-107. Powers and duties of health officers.
50-18-108. Examination and treatment of prisoners.
50-18-109. Permissible release of information concerning infected persons.
50-18-110. Unlawful dispensing of drugs for cure or alleviation of sexually transmitted disease.
50-18-111. Certificate of freedom from sexually transmitted disease not to be issued.
50-18-112. Infected person not to expose another to sexually transmitted disease.
50-18-113. Violation a misdemeanor.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

AIDS education and prevention, Title 50, ch. 16, part 10.

50-18-101. Sexually transmitted diseases defined. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, chlamydia genital infections, lymphogranuloma venereum, and granuloma inguinale are sexually transmitted diseases. Sexually transmitted diseases are contagious, infectious, communicable, and dangerous to public health.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4601(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 71, L. 1993.

50-18-102. Powers and duties of department. The department of public health and human services shall undertake to prevent, control, and prescribe treatments for sexually transmitted diseases and may conduct education campaigns for this purpose.

History: En. Sec. 98, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4602(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 290, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-18-103. Cooperation with federal agencies — federal funds. (1) The department of public health and human services shall cooperate with federal agencies and may expend federal funds made available to the state for the prevention, control, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

(2) The department may accept federal funds available for the prevention, control, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, deposit funds in the state treasury, and disburse the funds.

History: En. Secs. 98, 99, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 57, 58, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4602(part), 69-4603; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 291, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-18-104. Serological test for syphilis. (1) The department of public health and human services shall approve a standard serological test for syphilis. It shall also approve laboratories that may make the tests.

(2) On request, the department shall make laboratory tests required by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 107, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4611; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 292, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-18-105. Rules of department binding. Rules adopted by the department of public health and human services for carrying out the provisions of this chapter are binding on all persons and have the effect of law.

History: En. Sec. 112, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4616; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 293, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-18-106. Duty to report cases. If a physician or other person knows or has reason to suspect that a person who has a sexually transmitted disease is behaving in a way that might expose another to infection, the physician or person shall immediately notify the local health officer of the name and address of the diseased person and the essential facts in the case.

History: En. Secs. 100, 103, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4604, 69-4607; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1829, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Physicians to report cases of communicable disease, 37-2-301.
Report of exposure to infectious disease, Title 50, ch. 16, part 7.

50-18-107. Powers and duties of health officers. (1) If found necessary or desirable to protect public health, state and local health officers or their authorized deputies or agents shall:

(a) examine or have examined persons reasonably suspected of being infected with a sexually transmitted disease;

(b) require persons infected to report for treatment to a reputable physician and continue treatment, which may be at public expense, until cured;

(c) isolate or quarantine persons who refuse examination or treatment;

(d) investigate sources of infection of a sexually transmitted disease.

(2) No one but the state or local health officer may terminate the isolation or quarantine. Examinations may be made repeatedly as deemed advisable or desirable.

History: En. Sec. 101, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4605; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

50-18-108. Examination and treatment of prisoners. Any person confined or imprisoned in any state, county, or municipal prison within the state may be examined for a sexually transmitted disease. If infected, the person must be treated by health authorities.

History: En. Sec. 102, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4606; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

Cross-References

County jails, Title 7, ch. 32, part 22.
Municipal jails, Title 7, ch. 32, part 42.
Sexually transmitted disease testing on person convicted of sexual offense, 46-18-256.
State corrections, Title 53, ch. 30.

50-18-109. Permissible release of information concerning infected persons. (1) Information concerning persons infected or reasonably suspected to be infected with a sexually transmitted disease may be released only:

(a) to personnel of the department of public health and human services;

(b) to a physician who has written consent of the person whose record is requested;

(c) to a local health officer; or

(d) by the department of public health and human services or a local health officer or board under the circumstances allowed by Title 50, chapter 16, part 6.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "information" includes all knowledge or intelligence and all communications of all knowledge or intelligence, oral or written or in record form, and also includes but is not limited to information concerning the location or nature of the activities or work of all local, state, or federal employees or officers engaged in sexually transmitted disease eradication work. Communications to and from personnel are privileged as provided in 26-1-810.

(3) The purpose of this section is to protect and preserve the principle of confidentiality in sexually transmitted disease work by local, state, and federal public personnel, as confidentiality is important to the success of all sexually transmitted disease eradication work and endeavor, and to require that the principle of confidentiality in the work remain inviolate.

History: En. Sec. 106, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4610; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 294, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

50-18-110. Unlawful dispensing of drugs for cure or alleviation of sexually transmitted disease. It is unlawful to prescribe, sell, or recommend any drugs, medicines, or other substances for the cure or alleviation of a sexually transmitted disease except upon prescription signed by a person legally authorized to do so by the pharmacy laws of this state.

History: En. Sec. 104, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4608; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 3.

50-18-111. Certificate of freedom from sexually transmitted disease not to be issued. No person shall issue a certificate of freedom from a sexually transmitted disease. However, a physician or health officer may issue a statement of freedom from diseases in an infectious state only if it is written in such form or given under safeguards that will prevent its use in solicitation for sexual intercourse. These statements shall not be used for solicitation for immoral purposes.

History: En. Sec. 105, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4609; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

50-18-112. Infected person not to expose another to sexually transmitted disease. A person infected with a sexually transmitted disease may not knowingly expose another person to infection.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4601(part); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

50-18-113. Violation a misdemeanor. A person who violates provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department of public health and human services concerning a sexually transmitted disease or who fails or refuses to obey any lawful order issued by a state or local health officer is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 113, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4617; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 295, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

CHAPTER 19
PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEWBORN INFANTS

Part 1 — Serological Test for Women Seeking Prenatal Care

50-19-101. Definitions.
50-19-102. Duties of department.
50-19-103. Prenatal blood sample required for serological test.
50-19-104. Approved laboratory to perform syphilis, hepatitis B surface antigen, and rubella immunity tests.
50-19-105. Report of positive test results.
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50-19-108. Unauthorized divulgence of information a misdemeanor.
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Part 2 — Metabolic Tests of Infants — Genetics Program

50-19-201. Definitions.
50-19-202. Administration.
50-19-203. Newborn screening and followup for metabolic and genetic disorders.
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Part 3 — Montana Initiative for the Abatement of Mortality in Infants

50-19-301. Short title.
50-19-302. Purposes.
50-19-303. Definitions.
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50-19-312. Repealed.
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50-19-321. Contracts for services.
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Part 4 — Fetal, Infant, Child, and Maternal Mortality Prevention Act

50-19-401. Short title.
50-19-402. Statement of policy — access to information.
50-19-403. Local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team.
50-19-404. Records — confidentiality.
50-19-405. Unauthorized disclosure — civil penalty.
50-19-406. Unauthorized disclosure — misdemeanor.

Part 5 — Breastfeeding

50-19-501. Nursing mother and infant protection.

Part 1
Serological Test for Women Seeking Prenatal Care

Part Cross-References

Newborn hearing screening, Title 53, ch. 19, part 4.

50-19-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Health care provider" means a licensed physician, a physician assistant, a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, a naturopathic physician, or a direct-entry midwife practicing within the scope of the provider's professional license.

(3) "Standard serological test" means a test for syphilis, rubella immunity, and blood group, including ABO (Landsteiner blood type designation—O, A, B, AB) and RH (Dd) type, and a screening for hepatitis B surface antigen, approved by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6701; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 296, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 351, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

50-19-102. Duties of department. (1) The department shall provide all necessary printing and pay all necessary expenses relative to administration of this part.

(2) Reasonable rules for reports to be submitted by any laboratory making tests and the manner of furnishing the reports to the health care provider and the state must be adopted by the department.

(3) The department may use information derived from reports of positive tests for sexually transmitted diseases or hepatitis B surface antigen for followup procedures required by law or considered necessary by the department for the protection of public health.

History: **En. Secs. 3, 7, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6703(1), (3), 69-6707; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 351, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Duty to report cases of sexually transmitted diseases, 50-18-106.

50-19-103. Prenatal blood sample required for serological test. (1) Every female, as defined in 1-1-201, regardless of age or marital status, seeking prenatal care from a health care provider is required to submit a blood specimen for the purpose of a standard serological test. In submitting the specimen to the laboratory, the health care provider shall designate it as a prenatal test.

(2) A health care provider who attends a pregnant woman shall at the first professional visit take the blood sample and submit it to a laboratory.

(3) A person permitted to attend a pregnant woman, but not permitted to take blood samples, must have the sample taken by a person permitted to take blood samples and submit it to a laboratory.

(4) A health care provider who violates this part is guilty of a misdemeanor. However, a health care provider who requests a sample of blood in accordance with this provision and whose request is refused is not guilty of a violation of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6702; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 351, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 685, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 33, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

Newborn hearing screening, Title 53, ch. 19, part 4.

50-19-104. Approved laboratory to perform syphilis, hepatitis B surface antigen, and rubella immunity tests. (1) The tests for syphilis, hepatitis B surface antigen, and rubella immunity must be done by the laboratory of the department, a laboratory approved by the department, any other state laboratory, or a United States public health service or armed forces laboratory.

(2) The department may establish a reasonable fee for the tests done by the department laboratory.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6703(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 351, L. 2001.**

50-19-105. Report of positive test results. All positive laboratory tests for any sexually transmitted diseases or hepatitis B surface antigen must be reported to the department by the laboratory preparing the test. The department shall prescribe the form and way of reporting.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6703(2); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 440, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 351, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Sexually transmitted diseases, Title 50, ch. 18.

50-19-106. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1983.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 228, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6704.**

50-19-107. Required and permissible exhibit of test results. The report of the results of the test certified by the laboratory must be exhibited by the health care provider to the patient. Upon request of the patient, the report of the results of the test may be exhibited to the spouse of the patient, or if the patient is a minor, report of the results of the test may be exhibited to the minor's parents or to the minor's legal guardian.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6705; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 351, L. 2001.**

50-19-108. Unauthorized divulgence of information a misdemeanor. Certificates, laboratory statements or reports, or any other matters in this part referred to and the information therein contained shall be confidential and may not be divulged to or open to inspection by any person other than the patient or those designated by the patient to receive the information or other than state and local health officers or their duly authorized representatives. A person who divulges this information or opens to inspection the certificates, statements, or reports without authority to any person not by law entitled to them is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not more than $100.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6706.

Cross-References

Right of privacy guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-19-109. Waiver of test by court when contrary to patient's religious creed. The district court within the county wherein any person affected by this part resides may waive the requirements of this part as to the person if the judge is satisfied, by affidavit or other proof, that the tests required by the part are contrary to the tenets or practices of the religious creed of which the applicant is an adherent and that the public health and welfare will not be injuriously affected thereby.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6708.

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

50-19-110. Birth or fetal death certificate to state whether test made. A birth or fetal death certificate shall state whether a standard serological test was made on the specimen of blood, but the birth or fetal death certificate may not show the result of the test. The certificate shall state the approximate date when the specimen was taken, and if no test was made, the reason shall be stated.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 228, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6709.

Part 2
Metabolic Tests of Infants — Genetics Program

Part Cross-References

Newborn hearing screening, Title 53, ch. 19, part 4.

50-19-201. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Newborn" means an infant under 28 days of life.

(3) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity, whether organized for profit or not.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6710; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 297, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-19-202. Administration. This part shall be administered by the department, and the department may adopt rules for the administration of this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 227, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6712.

Cross-References

Adoption of publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-19-203. Newborn screening and followup for metabolic and genetic disorders. (1) A person in charge of a facility in which a child is born or a facility in which a newborn is provided care or a person responsible for the registration of the birth of a newborn shall ensure that each newborn is administered tests designed to detect inborn metabolic and genetic disorders as required under rules adopted by the department. The department shall initiate rulemaking to add testing for a new metabolic or genetic disorder to the newborn screening panel on occurrence of the following:

(a) a reliable test or series of tests for screening newborns for a genetic or metabolic condition using dried blood spots or other testing is developed and registered with the United States food and drug administration;

(b) quality assurance testing methodology is available and approved by the United States centers for disease control and prevention;

(c) necessary materials for the testing and quality assurance testing are commercially available; and

(d) the newborn screening advisory committee has recommended that the test be added to the newborn screening protocol.

(2) (a) The tests must be done by an approved laboratory. An approved laboratory must be the laboratory of the department or a laboratory approved by the department.

(b) A laboratory shall destroy any genetic materials submitted for a newborn if requested by a parent or guardian as provided in 50-19-206.

(c) A facility that collected samples for tests required under this section shall destroy any excess genetic material that was collected and was not sent to an approved laboratory for testing.

(3) The department shall contract with one or more providers qualified to provide followup services, including counseling and education, for children and parents of children identified with metabolic or genetic disorders to ensure the availability of followup services.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6711; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 372, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Newborn hearing screening, Title 53, ch. 19, part 4.

50-19-204. Department and Montana developmental center to furnish assistance when requested. (1) The department and the staff of the Montana developmental center shall make available and furnish, when requested, any assistance and services permitted by law to achieve the legislative intent of this part.

(2) The department may determine its procedure for advising the attending physician, the parents, or legal guardian of the newborn infant of any medical results of the test and the availability of assistance, services, or counseling of the department and the staff of the Montana developmental center.

(3) The department may determine procedures for coordination with the Montana developmental center in providing the services and assistance required in this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 227, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6713; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1985.

50-19-205. Newborn screening advisory committee — membership — duties. (1) There is a newborn screening advisory committee. The committee consists of 12 members appointed by the director of the department.

(2) (a) The director shall appoint the following voting members:

(i) two members who are persons affected by or family members of a person affected by a disorder tested for pursuant to 50-19-203;

(ii) two members who are physicians or nurse practitioners who are board-certified in obstetrics, pediatrics, family medicine, or neonatology;

(iii) one member who is a representative of a birthing center;

(iv) one member who is a representative of medicaid or the insurance industry;

(v) one member who is a representative of an advocacy association regarding newborns with medical conditions or rare disorders;

(vi) one member who is a medical geneticist or who has at least 5 years of experience working in a testing laboratory; and

(vii) one member who works in a tribal health care system.

(b) The director shall appoint the following department employees as nonvoting members:

(i) the chief medical director;

(ii) a representative of the newborn screening program; and

(iii) a representative of the laboratory services bureau.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), each voting committee member shall serve a staggered 3-year term and is subject to reappointment for one succeeding term.

(b) The director shall appoint the first nine voting members to an initial term of 1, 2, or 3 years so that the terms of no more than four members expire in any given year.

(4) The committee shall meet at least two times each year.

(5) The committee shall report its findings to the director at least once a year, if applicable, including providing recommendations that the department initiate rulemaking to add an additional metabolic or genetic disorder to the newborn screening protocol. In making recommendations to the department, the committee shall use federally recognized national standards for newborn screening, including the recommended uniform screening panel developed by the health resources and services administration of the United States department of health and human services.

(6) Members of the committee are not entitled to compensation for their services, but they are entitled to a mileage allowance, as provided in 2-18-503, and travel and meal expenses, as provided in 2-18-501 and 2-18-502.

(7) The committee shall gather information on recent developments in testing technology, investigate staff and equipment requirements of new tests, and perform other activities related to newborn screening. The committee may make recommendations to the director regarding conditions that should be added to the newborn screening panel.

(8) The committee is attached to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes, and the department shall provide staff support to the committee.

(9) The committee shall give priority to reviewing Krabbe disease.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 12, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-19-206. Genetic material related to newborn screening — limitations — retention. (1) Genetic material obtained to conduct the newborn screenings required under this part may not be used for any purposes other than the required screenings unless a parent or guardian consents in writing to use of the material for other purposes.

(2) A parent or guardian may request at any time that blood or other samples obtained for the screenings be destroyed:

(a) at any time after the initial test is completed, if the test results are within a normal range; or

(b) no sooner than 30 days after a test is completed, if the test results are outside of a normal range.

(3) The facility in which a child is born or newborn care is provided or the person responsible for registration of the birth of a newborn shall inform parents or guardians in writing of their rights under this section at or before the time of collection of any samples for newborn screenings. The notification must include information on how to submit a request for destruction of the samples.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 287, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

50-19-207 through 50-19-210 reserved.

50-19-211. Statewide genetics program established. (1) A combined, comprehensive statewide genetics program is established in the department to ensure the availability of services that include but are not limited to:

(a) comprehensive clinical and self-supporting laboratory genetic services, including but not limited to cytogenetics, DNA, and special chemistry, to all areas of the state and all segments of the population;

(b) counseling and testing programs for the diagnosis and management of genetic conditions; and

(c) educational programs for physicians, allied health professionals, and the public with respect to:

(i) the nature of genetic processes;

(ii) the inheritance patterns of genetic conditions; and

(iii) the means, methods, and facilities available to diagnose, counsel, and treat genetic conditions.

(2) When the department contracts for genetics services under this section, it shall preferably contract with a single entity that is able to provide the combined, comprehensive program. The department and the contractor shall administer the contract in the most cost-effective means practicable.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Genetics program fee, 33-2-712.

Group disability policy exemption, 33-2-713.

50-19-212. State special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department to be used solely for the purposes provided in 50-19-211.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 2005.

Part 3
Montana Initiative for the Abatement of Mortality in Infants

50-19-301. Short title. This part may be cited as "The Montana Initiative for the Abatement of Mortality in Infants (MIAMI) Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 649, L. 1989.

50-19-302. Purposes. The purposes of this part are to:

(1) assure that mothers and children, in particular those with low income or with limited availability of health services, receive access to quality maternal and child health services;

(2) reduce infant mortality and the number of low birthweight babies; and

(3) prevent the incidence of children born with chronic illnesses, birth defects, or severe disabilities as a result of inadequate prenatal care.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 649, L. 1989.

50-19-303. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Low income" means, with respect to an individual or family, income that does not exceed the official federal poverty threshold as defined by the federal office of management and budget and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

(3) "Project" means the MIAMI project established in 50-19-311.

(4) "Service provider" means a person, agency, or organization that has a contract to provide services under the MIAMI project.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 298, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

50-19-304 through 50-19-310 reserved.

50-19-311. MIAMI project. (1) There is a MIAMI project established in the department.

(2) Under the project, the department shall provide the following services:

(a) infant mortality review;

(b) morbidity review of births involving low birthweight babies;

(c) low birthweight prevention;

(d) assistance to low-income women and infants in gaining access to prenatal care, delivery, and postpartum care;

(e) referral of low-income women and children to other programs to protect the health of women and children, including:

(i) supplemental food programs for women, infants, and children;

(ii) family planning services; and

(iii) other maternal and child health programs;

(f) public education and community outreach to inform the public on:

(i) the importance of receiving early prenatal care;

(ii) the need for good health habits during pregnancy; and

(iii) the availability of special services for pregnant women and for children.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 634, L. 1991.

50-19-312. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 634, L. 1991.

50-19-313 through 50-19-320 reserved.

50-19-321. Contracts for services. (1) The department shall contract with service providers to provide services under the MIAMI project.

(2) In selecting service providers, the department shall take into consideration the past performance of the person, agency, or organization in providing similar services, the demonstrated effectiveness of the service provider in delivering comparable or related services, the fiscal accountability of the service provider, and such other factors as the department determines to be appropriate.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 649, L. 1989.

50-19-322. Federal and other aid. (1) The department may apply for and receive federal aid and other funding available for the MIAMI project.

(2) Federal funds and other funding that may be available may be appropriated to the department for use in administering the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 10, L. 2009.

50-19-323. Coordination of programs. The department shall coordinate services under the MIAMI project with other services and programs in the state including:

(1) the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services program under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act;

(2) the Montana medicaid program established in 53-6-101;

(3) programs administered with funds under the federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 97-35, as may be amended; and

(4) the services of fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality teams as provided in part 4 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 519, L. 1997.

Part 4

Fetal, Infant, Child, and Maternal Mortality Prevention Act

50-19-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Fetal, Infant, Child, and Maternal Mortality Prevention Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 67, L. 2013.

50-19-402. Statement of policy — access to information. (1) The prevention of fetal, infant, child, and maternal deaths is both the policy of the state of Montana and a community responsibility. Many community professionals have expertise that can be used to promote the health, safety, and welfare of fetuses, infants, children, and postnatal women. The use of these professionals in reviewing fetal, infant, child, and maternal deaths can lead to a greater understanding of the causes of death and the methods of preventing deaths. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage local communities to establish voluntary multidisciplinary fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review teams to study the incidence and causes of fetal, infant, child, and maternal deaths and to make recommendations for community or statewide change, if appropriate, that may help prevent future deaths.

(2) (a) A health care provider may disclose information about a patient without the patient's authorization or without the authorization of the representative of a patient who is deceased upon request of a local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team. The review team may request and may receive information from:

(i) a county attorney as provided in 44-5-303(4);

(ii) a tribal attorney; and

(iii) a health care provider as permitted in:

(A) Title 50, chapter 16, part 5 or 8; or

(B) applicable federal law.

(b) The review team shall maintain the confidentiality of the information received.

(3) (a) The local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team may:

(i) perform an indepth analysis of fetal, infant, and child deaths;

(ii) perform an indepth analysis of maternal deaths that occur within a year of the time a woman gave birth;

(iii) compile statistics of fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality and communicate the statistics to the department of public health and human services for inclusion in statistical reports;

(iv) analyze the preventable causes of fetal, infant, child, and maternal deaths, including child abuse and neglect and postpartum complications; and

(v) recommend measures to prevent future fetal, infant, child, and maternal deaths.

(b) The analysis authorized under this subsection (3) may include a review of records available by law.

(4) A local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team may not review deaths under this section if:

(a) the deaths involve fetuses, infants, children, or women who are Indians;

(b) the deaths occur within the boundaries of an Indian reservation; and

(c) the tribal government opposes the review.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 67, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Child abuse and neglect, Title 41, ch. 3, part 1.
Sudden infant death syndrome, 50-15-411, 50-15-412.
Health care information, Title 50, ch. 16.

50-19-403. Local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team. (1) A local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team must be approved by the department of public health and human services. Approval may be given if:

(a) the county health department, a tribal health department if the tribal government agrees, or both are represented on the team and the plan provided for in subsection (1)(e) includes the roles of the county health department, tribal health department, or both;

(b) a lead person has been designated for the purposes of management of the review team;

(c) at least five of the individuals listed in subsection (2) have agreed to serve on the review team;

(d) a team reviewing a maternal death includes at least one obstetrician, one family practice physician, or one physician assistant whose experience includes obstetrical care; and

(e) the team has developed a plan that includes, at a minimum, operating policies of the review team covering collection and destruction of information obtained pursuant to 44-5-303(4) or 50-19-402(2).

(2) If a local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team is established, the team must be multidisciplinary and may include only:

(a) the county attorney or a designee;
(b) a law enforcement officer;
(c) the medical examiner or coroner for the jurisdiction;
(d) a physician;
(e) a school district representative;
(f) a representative of the local health department;
(g) a representative from a tribal health department, appointed by the tribal government;
(h) a representative from a neighboring county or tribal government if there is an agreement to review deaths for that county or tribe;
(i) a representative of the department of public health and human services;
(j) a forensic pathologist;
(k) a pediatrician;
(l) a family practice physician;
(m) an obstetrician;
(n) a nurse practitioner;
(o) a public health nurse;
(p) a mental health professional;
(q) a local trauma coordinator;

(r) a representative of the bureau of Indian affairs or the Indian health service, or both, who is located within the county;

(s) a physician assistant; and

(t) representatives of the following:

(i) local emergency medical services;

(ii) a local hospital;

(iii) a local hospital medical records department;

(iv) a local governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33; and

(v) the local registrar.

(3) The designated lead person for the team shall submit membership lists to the department of public health and human services annually.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 67, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 88, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 15, Ch. 88, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

50-19-404. Records — confidentiality. Material and information obtained by a local fetal, infant, child, and maternal mortality review team are not subject to disclosure under the public records law. Material and information obtained by a review team are not subject to subpoena.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 67, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

50-19-405. Unauthorized disclosure — civil penalty. A person aggrieved by the use of information obtained pursuant to 50-19-402(2) for a purpose not authorized by 50-19-402(3) or by a disclosure of that information in violation of 50-19-402(2) may bring a civil action in the district court of the county of the person's residence for damages, costs, and fees as provided in 50-16-553(6) through (8) or 50-16-817.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

Damages, Title 27, ch. 1, part 2.

Measure of damages, Title 27, ch. 1, part 3.

50-19-406. Unauthorized disclosure — misdemeanor. A person who knowingly uses information obtained pursuant to 50-19-402(2) for a purpose not authorized by 50-19-402(3) or who discloses that information in violation of 50-19-402(2) is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 519, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 396, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 413, L. 2003.

Part 5
Breastfeeding

50-19-501. Nursing mother and infant protection. (1) The Montana legislature finds that breastfeeding a baby is an important and basic act of nurturing that must be protected in the interests of maternal and child health and family values. A mother has a right to breastfeed the mother's child in any location, public or private, where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be present, irrespective of whether or not the mother's breast is covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding.

(2) A unit of local government may not prohibit breastfeeding in public by local ordinance.

(3) The act of breastfeeding may not be considered:

(a) a nuisance as provided in Title 27, chapter 30;

(b) indecent exposure as provided for in 45-5-504;

(c) sexual conduct as defined in 45-5-625; or

(d) obscenity as provided for in 45-8-201.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 20
ABORTION

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Chapter Cross-References

Obstructing health care facility access, 45-8-110.

Part 1
Montana Abortion Control Act

Part Cross-References

Prohibition on coverage of abortion services in qualified health plans, 33-22-116.
Rights of unborn, 41-1-103.
Obstructing health care facility access, 45-8-110.

50-20-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Abortion Control Act".
History: En. 94-5-613 by Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-613; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 130, L. 2005.

50-20-102. Statement of purpose — findings. (1) The legislature reaffirms the tradition of the state of Montana to protect every human life, whether unborn or aged, healthy or sick. In keeping with this tradition and in the spirit of our constitution, we reaffirm the intent to extend the protection of the laws of Montana in favor of all human life. It is the policy of the state to preserve and protect the lives of all human beings and to provide protection for the viable human life. The protection afforded to a person by Montana's constitutional right of privacy is not absolute, but may be infringed upon by a compelling state interest. The legislature finds that a compelling state interest exists in the protection of viable life.

(2) The legislature finds, with respect to 50-20-401, that:

(a) the United States supreme court has determined that states have a legitimate interest in protecting both a woman's health and the potentiality of human life and that each interest grows and reaches a compelling point at various stages of a woman's approach to the full term of a pregnancy;

(b) the court has also determined that subsequent to viability, the state in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life may, if it chooses, regulate and even proscribe abortion except when necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the woman;

(c) the holdings referred to in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) apply to unborn persons in order to extend to unborn persons the inalienable right to defend their lives and liberties;

(d) absent clear proof that an abortion is necessary to save the life of the woman, the abortion of a viable person is an infringement of that person's rights; and

(e) the state has a duty to protect innocent life and that duty has grown to a compelling point with respect to partial-birth abortion.

History: En. 94-5-614 by Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-614; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1999.

50-20-103. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the legislature to restrict abortion to the extent permissible under decisions of appropriate courts or paramount legislation.

History: En. 94-5-623 by Sec. 11, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-623.

50-20-104. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or other substance or device to intentionally terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant, with an intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, or to remove a dead fetus.

(2) "Attempted abortion" or "attempted" means an act or an omission of a statutorily required act that, under the circumstances as the actor believes them to be, constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the performance of an abortion in violation of this chapter.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Facility" means a hospital, health care facility, physician's office, or other place in which an abortion is performed.

(5) "Informed consent" means voluntary consent to an abortion by the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed only after full disclosure to the woman by:

(a) the physician who is to perform the abortion of the following information:

(i) the particular medical risks associated with the particular abortion procedure to be employed, including, when medically accurate, the risks of infection, hemorrhage, breast cancer, danger to subsequent pregnancies, and infertility;

(ii) the probable gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed; and

(iii) the medical risks of carrying the child to term;

(b) the physician or an agent of the physician:

(i) that medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care;

(ii) that the father is liable to assist in the support of the child, even in instances in which the father has offered to pay for the abortion; and

(iii) that the woman has the right to review the printed materials described in 50-20-304; and

(c) the physician or the agent that the printed materials described in 50-20-304 have been provided by the department and that the materials describe the unborn child and list agencies that offer alternatives to abortion.

(6) (a) "Viability" means the ability of a fetus to live outside the mother's womb, albeit with artificial aid.

(b) A determination of viability must be:

(i) made in writing by the physician or physician assistant performing an abortion and include the review and record of an ultrasound; and

(ii) based on the best available science and survival data, with viability presumed at 24 weeks gestational age and any period of time after that. A calculation of gestational age must take into account a margin of error and, if uncertainty exists regarding viability, there is a presumption of viability.

History: En. 94-5-615 by Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-615(part); amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 299, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 566, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

50-20-105. Duties of department. (1) The department shall make regulations to provide for the humane disposition of dead infants or fetuses.

(2) The department shall make regulations for a comprehensive system of reporting of maternal deaths and complications within the state resulting directly or indirectly from abortion, subject to the provisions of 50-20-110(6).

(3) The department shall report to the attorney general any apparent violation of this chapter.

(4) The department shall develop a certification form for use in accordance with 50-20-113.

History: (1)En. 94-5-617 by Sec. 5, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 338, L. 1977; Sec. 94-5-617, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 94-5-621 by Sec. 9, Ch. 284, L. 1974; Sec. 94-5-621, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 94-5-619 by Sec. 7, Ch. 284, L. 1974; Sec. 94-5-619, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-617(4), 94-5-619(6), 94-5-621; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.

50-20-106. Informed consent. (1) An abortion may not be performed without the informed consent of the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed. The informed consent must be received at least 24 hours prior to the abortion and certified prior to or at the time of the abortion.

(2) Informed consent must be certified by a written statement in a form prescribed by the department and signed by the physician and the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed in which the physician certifies that the physician has made the full disclosure provided in 50-20-104(5) and in which the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed acknowledges that the disclosures have been made to the woman and that the woman voluntarily consents to the abortion.

(3) If a woman chooses to review the written materials described in 50-20-304, the materials must be provided to the woman at least 24 hours before the abortion or be mailed to the woman by certified mail, with delivery restricted to the addressee, at least 72 hours before the abortion.

(4) The information required in 50-20-104(5)(a) may be provided by telephone without conducting a physical examination or tests of the patient. The information may be based on facts supplied to the physician by the woman and other relevant information that is reasonably available to the physician. The information may not be provided by a tape recording but must be provided during a consultation in which the physician is able to ask questions of the woman and the woman is able to ask questions of the physician. If a physical examination, tests, or the availability of other information subsequently indicates, in the medical judgment of the physician, a revision of information previously provided to the patient, the revised information may be communicated to the patient at any time prior to the performance of the abortion.

(5) The information required in 50-20-104(5)(b) may be provided by a tape recording if provision is made to record or otherwise register specifically whether the woman does or does not choose to review the printed materials.

(6) The informed consent or consent provided for in this section is not required if a licensed physician certifies that the abortion is necessary because of a medical emergency as defined in 50-20-303.

(7) An executive officer, administrative agency, or public employee of the state or of any local governmental body may not issue any order requiring an abortion or coerce any woman to have an abortion. A person may not coerce any woman to have an abortion.

(8) A violation of subsections (1) through (7) is a misdemeanor.

History: (1), (3) thru (5)En. 94-5-616 by Sec. 4, Ch. 284, L. 1974; Sec. 94-5-616, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 94-5-615 by Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 94-5-615, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-615(part), 94-5-616(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 566, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1830, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Penalty for misdemeanor, 50-20-112.

50-20-107. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

History: En. 94-5-616 by Sec. 4, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-616(part).

50-20-108. Protection of premature infants born alive. (1) A person commits an offense, as defined in 45-5-102 through 45-5-104, if the person purposely, knowingly, or negligently causes the death of a premature infant born alive, if the infant is viable.

(2) Whenever a premature infant that is the subject of abortion is born alive and is viable, it becomes a dependent and neglected child subject to the provisions of state law, unless:

(a) the termination of the pregnancy is necessary to preserve the life of the mother; or

(b) the mother and the mother's spouse or either of them have agreed in writing in advance of the abortion or within 72 hours thereafter to accept the parental rights and responsibilities of the premature infant if it survives the abortion procedure.

(3) A person may not use any premature infant born alive for any type of scientific research or other kind of experimentation except as necessary to protect or preserve the life and health of the premature infant born alive.

(4) A violation of subsection (3) is a felony.

History: En. 94-5-617 by Sec. 5, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 338, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-617(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 610, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1831, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Child abuse, neglect, and dependency, Title 41, ch. 3.
Penalty for felony, 50-20-112.

50-20-109. Control of practice of abortion. (1) Except as provided in 50-20-401, an abortion may not be performed within the state of Montana:

(a) except by a licensed physician or physician assistant; and

(b) on an unborn child:

(i) who is capable of feeling pain, except as provided in 50-20-603; or

(ii) who is viable, unless necessary to preserve the life of the mother.

(2) Violation of subsection (1) is a felony.

History: En. 94-5-618 by Sec. 6, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-618; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 485, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 314, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 479, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 88, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 16, Ch. 88, L. 2023, deleted former (2) that read: "(2) The supervision agreement of a physician assistant may provide for performing abortions"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 389, L. 2023, in (1)(b)(i) before "capable of feeling pain" inserted "who is"; inserted (1)(b)(ii) concerning viability; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

Cross-References

Freedom of speech and expression, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 3.
Penalty for felony and for misdemeanor, 50-20-112.

50-20-110. Reporting of practice of abortion. (1) Every facility in which an abortion is performed within the state shall keep on file, on a form prescribed by the department, a statement dated and certified by the physician who performed the abortion that provides information with respect to the abortion as required by the department by rule. The information must include but is not limited to information on prior pregnancies, the medical procedure employed to administer the abortion, the gestational age of the fetus, the vital signs of the fetus after abortion, if any, and if after viability, the medical procedures employed to protect and preserve the life and health of the fetus.

(2) The physician performing an abortion shall request pathology studies as required by the department by rule, and the facility shall keep the reports of the pathology studies on file.

(3) In connection with an abortion, the facility shall keep on file the original of each of the documents required by this chapter relating to informed consent, consent to abortion, certification of necessity of abortion to preserve the life or health of the mother, and certification of necessity of abortion to preserve the life of the mother.

(4) A health care provider who prescribes a medication intended to cause or induce an abortion shall keep on file, on a form prescribed by the department, a statement dated and certified by the health care provider reporting any adverse side effects experienced by the person to whom the medication was prescribed.

(5) (a) Within 30 days after the abortion, a facility shall file with the department a report on a form prescribed by the department and certified by the custodian of the records or physician in charge of the facility that provides all of the information required in subsections (1), (2), and (3).

(b) Within 30 days of prescribing a medication intended to cause or induce an abortion, a health care provider shall file a report with the department that provides the information required under subsection (4).

(c) Reports filed under this subsection (5) may not contain any information that would identify any individual involved with the abortion.

(d) A report must exclude copies of any documents required to be filed by subsection (3) but must certify that the documents were executed and are on file.

(6) All reports and documents required by this chapter must be treated with the confidentiality afforded to medical records, subject to disclosure as permitted by law. Statistical data not identifying any individual involved in an abortion must be made public by the department annually, and the report required by subsection (5) to be filed with the department must be available for public inspection except any information that identifies any individual involved in an abortion. Names and identities of persons submitting to abortion shall remain confidential among medical and medical support personnel directly involved in the abortion and among persons working in the facility where the abortion was performed whose duties include billing the patient or submitting claims to an insurance company, keeping facility records, or processing abortion data required by state law.

(7) (a) Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and is punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

(b) Violation of the provisions of subsections (4) or (5)(b) by a health care provider is unprofessional conduct as defined in 37-1-308 and is subject to the sanctions provided for in 37-1-312(1)(b) through (1)(j), up to a maximum suspension of the provider's license for a period of 1 year.

History: En. 94-5-619 by Sec. 7, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-619(1) thru (5); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 228, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 278, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 278, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Confidentiality of health care information, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

50-20-111. Right to refuse participation in abortion — affirmative consent required. (1) No private hospital or health care facility shall be required contrary to the religious or moral tenets or the stated religious beliefs or moral convictions of its staff or governing board to admit any person for the purpose of abortion or to permit the use of its facilities for such purpose. Such refusal shall not give rise to liability of such hospital or health care facility or any personnel or agent or governing board thereof to any person for damages allegedly arising from such refusal or be the basis for any discriminatory, disciplinary, or other recriminatory action against such hospital or health care facility or any personnel, agent, or governing board thereof.

(2) A person may not be scheduled, assigned, or requested to directly or indirectly perform, facilitate, refer for, or participate in an abortion unless the person first affirmatively consents in writing to perform, facilitate, refer for, or participate in the abortion.

(3) (a) All persons shall have the right to refuse to advise concerning, perform, assist, or participate in abortion because of religious beliefs or moral convictions.

(b) If requested by any hospital or health care facility or person desiring an abortion, a refusal shall be in writing signed by the person refusing, but may refer generally to the grounds of "religious beliefs and moral convictions". The refusal of any person to advise concerning, perform, assist, or participate in abortion shall not be a consideration in respect of staff privileges of any hospital or health care facility or a basis for any discriminatory, disciplinary, or other recriminatory action against such person, nor shall such person be liable to any person for damages allegedly arising from refusal.

(4) It shall be unlawful to interfere or attempt to interfere with the right of refusal authorized by this section. The person injured thereby shall be entitled to injunctive relief, when appropriate, and shall further be entitled to monetary damages for injuries suffered.

(5) Such refusal by any hospital or health care facility or person shall not be grounds for loss of any privileges or immunities to which the granting of consent may otherwise be a condition precedent or for the loss of any public benefits.

(6) As used in this section, the term "person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, and corporations.

History: En. 94-5-620 by Sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-620; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 376, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 376, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 12, Ch. 376, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to insurance policies issued on or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.

Right to refuse participation in sterilization, Title 50, ch. 5, part 5.

50-20-112. Penalties. (1) A person convicted of deliberate, mitigated, or negligent homicide under this chapter is subject to the penalties prescribed by 45-5-102 through 45-5-104.

(2) A person convicted of a felony other than deliberate, mitigated, or negligent homicide under this chapter is subject to a fine not to exceed $1,000, imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both.

(3) A person convicted of a misdemeanor under this chapter is subject to a fine not to exceed $500, imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

(4) (a) A penalty may not be imposed against the woman upon whom the abortion is performed or attempted to be performed.

(b) A penalty may not be imposed for failure to comply with the provision of 50-20-106 that requires a written certification that the woman has been informed of the opportunity to review the information referred to in 50-20-304 if the department has not made the written materials available at the time that the physician or the physician's agent is required to inform the woman of the right to review the materials.

History: En. 94-5-622 by Sec. 10, Ch. 284, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 338, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 94-5-622; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 610, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

50-20-113. Provision of information — exceptions — penalty. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person performing an abortion on a pregnant woman or that person's agent shall inform the woman of the opportunity to:

(i) view an active ultrasound of the unborn child;

(ii) view an ultrasound image of the unborn child; and

(iii) listen to the fetal heart tone of the unborn child, if audible.

(b) The quality of the active ultrasound, ultrasound image, and auscultation of the fetal heart tone must be consistent with standard medical practices in the community in which the abortion is being performed.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a procedure performed with the intent to:

(a) save the life of the woman;

(b) ameliorate a serious risk of causing the woman substantial and irreversible impairment of a bodily function; or

(c) remove an ectopic pregnancy.

(3) The person performing the abortion or that person's agent shall obtain the woman's signature on a certification form developed by the department that:

(a) contains an acknowledgment that the woman was informed of the opportunities provided for in subsection (1); and

(b) indicates whether the woman viewed the active ultrasound or ultrasound image or listened to the fetal heart tone.

(4) (a) Before an abortion is performed or attempted, the person who is performing or attempting the abortion must receive a copy of the signed certification form provided for in subsection (3).

(b) A copy of the certification form must be retained in the woman's medical record.

(5) A person who performs or attempts to perform an abortion in violation of this section is subject to a civil penalty of $1,000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2021.

Part 2
Parental Notice of Abortion Act
(Repealed)

50-20-201. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-202. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-203. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-204. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-205. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-206 and 50-20-207 reserved.

50-20-208. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-209. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-210 reserved.

50-20-211. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-212. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 469, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 449, L. 2005.

50-20-213 and 50-20-214 reserved.

50-20-215. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 469, L. 1995.

50-20-216 through 50-20-220 reserved.

50-20-221. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-222. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-223. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-224. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-225. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-226 and 50-20-227 reserved.

50-20-228. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-229. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-230 and 50-20-231 reserved.

50-20-232. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

50-20-233 and 50-20-234 reserved.

50-20-235. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 307, L. 2011.

Part 3
Woman's Right to Know

50-20-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Woman's Right-to-Know Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 566, L. 1995.**

50-20-302. Legislative purpose and findings. (1) The legislature finds that:
(a) it is essential to the psychological and physical well-being of a woman who is considering an abortion that the woman receive complete and accurate information on alternatives;
(b) the knowledgeable exercise of a woman's decision to have an abortion depends on the extent to which the woman receives sufficient information to make an informed choice between the alternatives of giving birth and having an abortion;
(c) in most instances, the only contact with a physician that a woman who has an abortion has occurs simultaneously with the abortion procedure, with little opportunity to receive counseling concerning the decision;
(d) the decision to abort is an important and often stressful one, and it is desirable and imperative that it be made with full knowledge of its nature and consequences;
(e) the medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of an abortion are serious and can be lasting;
(f) some abortion facilities or providers offer only limited or impersonal counseling opportunities; and
(g) some abortion facilities or providers hire untrained and unprofessional counselors whose primary goal is to sell abortion services.
(2) Based on the findings in subsection (1), it is the purpose of this part to:
(a) ensure that every woman who is considering an abortion receive complete information on alternatives and that every woman submitting to an abortion do so only after giving informed consent to the abortion procedure;
(b) protect unborn children from a woman's uninformed decision to have an abortion; and
(c) reduce the risk that a woman may elect an abortion, only to discover later, with devastating psychological consequences, that the decision was not fully informed.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 566, L. 1995.**

50-20-303. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
(1) "Medical emergency" means a condition that, on the basis of the physician's good faith clinical judgment, so complicates the medical condition of a pregnant woman as to necessitate the immediate abortion of the woman's pregnancy to avert the woman's death or for which a delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.
(2) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine under Title 37, chapter 3.
(3) "Pregnant" or "pregnancy" means that female reproductive condition of having an unborn child in the woman's body.
(4) "Unborn child" means the offspring of human beings from conception until birth.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 566, L. 1995.**

50-20-304. Publication of materials. (1) The department shall publish and annually update easily comprehensible printed, unbiased materials that are geographically indexed and designed to inform women of public and private agencies and services available to assist a woman through pregnancy, during childbirth, and while a woman's child is dependent. The materials must:
(a) include adoption agencies;
(b) include a comprehensive list of the agencies, a description of the services offered, and the telephone numbers and addresses of the agencies;
(c) inform a woman about medical assistance benefits for prenatal care, childbirth, neonatal care, and child support obligations of a father of a child.
(2) The department shall ensure that the materials described in this section are comprehensive and do not directly or indirectly promote, exclude, or discourage the use of any agency or service. The materials must include a toll-free, 24-hour telephone number that may

be called to orally obtain a list and description of agencies in the locality of the caller and of the services offered by the agencies.

(3) The materials must state that:

(a) it is unlawful for any individual to coerce a woman to undergo or not to undergo an abortion;

(b) a physician who performs an abortion on a woman without the woman's informed consent may be liable to the woman for damages in a civil action; and

(c) the law allows adoptive parents to pay the costs of prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care.

(4) The materials must inform the pregnant woman of the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at 2-week gestational increments from fertilization to full term, including pictures or drawings representing the development of unborn children at 2-week gestational increments. The pictures or drawings must contain the dimensions of the unborn child and must be realistic. The materials must include any relevant information on the possibility of the unborn child's survival at each stage depicted. The materials must be objective, nonjudgmental, and designed to convey only accurate scientific information about the unborn child at the various gestational ages. The materials must contain objective information describing the methods of abortion procedures commonly employed, the medical risks commonly associated with each procedure, the possible detrimental psychological effects of abortion, the possible detrimental psychological effects of adoption, and the medical risks associated with carrying a child to term.

(5) The materials must be printed in a clearly legible typeface.

(6) The materials required to be produced under this section must be provided at no cost upon request and must be provided in appropriate quantities to any person, facility, or hospital.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

50-20-305. Emergency. When a medical emergency compels the performance of an abortion, the physician shall inform the woman, before the abortion if possible, of the medical indications supporting the physician's judgment that an abortion is necessary to avert the woman's death or that a 24-hour delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

50-20-306. Physician reporting requirements — penalty — action — department report. (1) Within 90 days after July 1, 1995, the department shall prepare a reporting form to be used by physicians that contains a reprint of this chapter and on which the physician shall list:

(a) the number of women to whom the physician provided the information described in 50-20-104(5)(a), including:

(i) the number of women provided the information by telephone and the number to whom it was provided in person; and

(ii) the number of women in each group referred to in subsection (1)(a)(i) to whom the physician provided the information in the capacity of a referring physician and the number to whom it was provided in the capacity of a physician who is to perform the abortion;

(b) the number of women to whom the physician or an agent of the physician provided the information described in 50-20-104(5)(b), including:

(i) the number of women to whom the physician provided the information by telephone and the number to whom it was provided in person;

(ii) the number of women in each group referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) to whom the physician provided the information in the capacity of a referring physician and the number to whom it was provided in the capacity of a physician who is to perform the abortion; and

(iii) the number of women in each group referred to in subsection (1)(b)(ii) to whom information was provided by the physician and the number to whom it was provided by an agent of the physician;

(c) the number of women who availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a copy of the printed information described in 50-20-304 and the number who did not;

(d) of each of the numbers described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c), the number who, to the best of the reporting physician's information and belief, obtained an abortion; and

(e) the number of abortions that were performed by the physician but in which information otherwise required to be provided at least 24 hours before the abortion was not provided because:

(i) an immediate abortion was necessary to avert the woman's death; or

(ii) a delay would create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

(2) The department shall ensure that copies of the reporting forms described in subsection (1) are provided:

(a) by 120 days after July 1, 1995, to all physicians licensed in this state;

(b) to each physician licensed to practice after July 1, 1995, at the time of licensure;

(c) by December 1 of each succeeding year, to all physicians licensed to practice in this state.

(3) By February 28 of each year, each physician or the physician's agent who provided information to one or more women in accordance with 50-20-106 shall submit a copy of the reporting form described in subsection (1) to the department with the requested data entered accurately and completely.

(4) Reports that are not submitted by March 31 are subject to a penalty of $500 for each 30-day period that the reports are overdue. A physician who is required to report but who, more than 1 year after the due date, has not submitted a report or who has submitted an incomplete report may, in an action brought by the department, be directed by a district court to submit a complete report within a period stated in the court order or be subject to sanctions for civil contempt.

(5) By June 30 of each year, the department shall issue a public report providing statistics for the previous calendar year submitted in accordance with this section for each of the items listed in subsection (1). Each report must provide the statistics for all previous calendar years, adjusted to reflect information from late or corrected reports. The department shall ensure that none of the information included in the public reports could reasonably lead to the identification of an individual who was provided information in accordance with 50-20-106. The department shall design the reporting process to ensure that confidentiality regarding the physician or the physician's agent is maintained in the department records.

(6) The department may, by rule, alter the dates established by subsection (2)(c), (3), or (5) or consolidate the forms or reports described in this section with other forms or reports to achieve administrative convenience, achieve fiscal savings, or reduce the burden of reporting requirements. However, reporting forms must be sent to all licensed physicians at least once a year, and the report described in subsection (5) must be issued at least once a year.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-20-307. Civil remedies. (1) A person who performs an abortion in knowing or reckless violation of this chapter may be liable for actual and punitive damages in an action brought by the woman upon whom an abortion was performed or, if the woman is under 18 years of age or is physically or mentally incapacitated for purposes of being able to decide whether to bring and pursue an action, then, on the woman's behalf, by either:

(a) the father of the unborn child who was the subject of the abortion; or

(b) the grandparent of an unborn child who was the subject of the abortion.

(2) A person who attempts to perform an abortion in knowing or reckless violation of this chapter may be liable for actual and punitive damages in an action brought by the woman upon whom an abortion was attempted.

(3) If the department fails to issue the public report required in 50-20-306, a group of 10 or more citizens may seek an injunction, in a court of competent jurisdiction, against the director of the department to require that a complete report be issued within a period established by court order. Failure to comply with an injunction subjects the director to sanctions for civil contempt.

(4) If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in any action described in this section, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant.

(5) An abortion or attempted abortion performed in violation of this chapter is the basis for a professional disciplinary action under 37-1-316.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Damages, Title 27, ch. 1, part 2.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-20-308. Protection of privacy in court proceedings. In a civil or criminal proceeding under this chapter, the court shall determine whether the anonymity of a woman upon whom an abortion has been performed or attempted must be preserved from public disclosure, unless the woman waives anonymity. The court shall make a ruling and, upon determining that the woman's anonymity should be preserved, shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and the exclusion of individuals from the proceedings to the extent necessary to safeguard the woman's identity from public disclosure. Each order must be accompanied by specific written findings explaining why the anonymity of the woman should be preserved, why the order is necessary, how the order is tailored to protect the woman's privacy, and why no less restrictive alternative exists. In the absence of written consent of the woman upon whom an abortion has been performed or attempted, a person other than a public official who brings an action under 50-20-307(1) shall do so under a pseudonym.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 566, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Part 4
Miscellaneous Abortion Laws

50-20-401. Offense of partial-birth abortion — exception — definitions — penalties. (1) Except as provided in this section, a person commits an offense if the person purposely, knowingly, or negligently causes a partial-birth abortion.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) a partial-birth abortion caused to save the life of a woman because the woman's life is endangered by a physical disorder, illness, or injury, including a life-endangering condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, if no other medical procedure would save the life of the woman; or

(b) the woman upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed.

(3) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(b) "Negligently" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(c) (i) "Partial-birth abortion" means an abortion in which the person performing the abortion partially vaginally delivers a living human fetus before killing the fetus and completing the delivery.

(ii) A procedure that constitutes a partial-birth abortion is one in which the following steps occur:

(A) the living fetus is removed intact from the uterus until only the head remains in the uterus;

(B) all or a part of the intracranial contents of the fetus are evacuated;

(C) the head of the fetus is compressed; and

(D) following fetal demise, the fetus is removed from the birth canal.

(d) "Purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(4) A person committing the offense provided for in subsection (1) is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by:

(a) a fine of not more than $50,000;

(b) imprisonment in a correctional facility for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years; or

(c) both fine and imprisonment as provided in subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b); and

(d) permanent revocation of the license of the physician performing the partial-birth abortion. The provisions of 37-1-203 and 37-1-205 do not apply to a physician whose license is revoked pursuant to this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 479, L. 1999.

Part 5
Parental Consent for Abortion Act

50-20-501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Parental Consent for Abortion Act of 2013".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

50-20-502. Legislative purpose and findings. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) immature minors often lack the ability to make fully informed choices that take into account both immediate and long-range consequences;

(b) the medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of abortion are sometimes serious and can be lasting, particularly when the patient is immature;

(c) the capacity to become pregnant and the capacity for mature judgment concerning the wisdom of an abortion are not necessarily related;

(d) parents ordinarily possess information essential to a physician in the exercise of the physician's best medical judgment concerning the minor;

(e) parents who are aware that their minor daughter has had an abortion may better ensure that the daughter receives adequate medical care after the abortion; and

(f) parental consultation is usually desirable and in the best interests of the minor.

(2) The purpose of this part is to further the important and compelling state interests of:

(a) protecting minors against their own immaturity;

(b) fostering family unity and preserving the family as a viable social unit;

(c) protecting the constitutional rights of parents to rear children who are members of their household; and

(d) reducing teenage pregnancy and unnecessary abortion.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

50-20-503. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Coerce" means to restrain or dominate the choice of a minor by force, threat of force, or deprivation of food and shelter.

(2) "Consent" means a notarized written statement obtained on a form and executed in the manner prescribed by 50-20-505 that is signed by a parent or legal guardian of a minor and that declares that the minor intends to seek an abortion and that the parent or legal guardian of the minor consents to the abortion.

(3) "Emancipated minor" means a person under 18 years of age who is or has been married or who has been granted an order of limited emancipation by a court as provided in 41-1-503.

(4) "Medical emergency" means a condition that, on the basis of the good faith clinical judgment of a physician or physician assistant, so complicates the medical condition of a pregnant woman as to necessitate the immediate abortion of the woman's pregnancy to avert the woman's death or a condition for which a delay in treatment will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

(5) "Minor" means a pregnant female under 18 years of age who is not an emancipated minor.

(6) "Physical abuse" means any physical injury intentionally inflicted by a parent or legal guardian on a minor.

(7) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine under Title 37, chapter 3.

(8) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 20, who provides medical services under the supervision of a physician.

(9) "Sexual abuse" has the meaning provided in 41-3-102.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

50-20-504. Consent of parent or legal guardian required. (1) Except as provided in 50-20-507, a physician or physician assistant may not perform an abortion on a minor unless the physician or physician assistant or the agent of the physician or physician assistant first obtains the notarized written consent of a parent or legal guardian of the minor.

(2) The consent of a parent or legal guardian of the minor is invalid unless it is obtained in the manner and on the form prescribed by 50-20-505.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

50-20-505. Consent form — disclosure — requirements for validity. (1) The department of public health and human services shall create a consent form to be used by physicians, physician assistants, or their agents in obtaining the consent of a parent or legal guardian as required under 50-20-504 or in obtaining the waiver of the consent of a parent or legal guardian as provided for in 50-20-507.

(2) The form must disclose but is not limited to the following:

(a) any information that a physician or physician assistant is required by law to provide to the minor and the rights of the minor;

(b) the rights of the parent or legal guardian;

(c) the surgical or medical procedures that may be performed on the minor;

(d) the risks and hazards related to the procedures planned for the minor, including but not limited to the risks and hazards associated with:

(i) any surgical, medical, or diagnostic procedure, including the potential for infection, blood clots in veins and lungs, hemorrhage, and allergic reactions;

(ii) a surgical abortion, including hemorrhage, uterine perforation or other damage to the uterus, sterility, injury to the bowel or bladder, a potential hysterectomy caused by a complication or injury during the procedure, and the possibility of additional procedures being required because of failure to remove all products of conception;

(iii) a medical or nonsurgical abortion, including hemorrhage, sterility, the continuation of the pregnancy, and the possibility of additional procedures being required because of failure to remove all products of conception; and

(iv) the particular procedure that is planned for the minor, including cramping of the uterus, pelvic pain, infection of the female reproductive organs, cervical laceration, incompetent cervix, and the requirement of emergency treatment for any complications.

(3) The form must include:

(a) a minor consent statement that the minor is required to sign. The minor consent statement must include but is not limited to the following points, each of which must be initialed by the minor:

(i) the minor understands that the physician or physician assistant is going to perform an abortion on the minor and that the abortion will end the minor's pregnancy;

(ii) the minor is not being coerced into having an abortion, the minor has the choice not to have the abortion, and the minor may withdraw consent at any time prior to the abortion;

(iii) the minor consents to the procedure;

(iv) the minor understands the risks and hazards associated with the surgical or medical procedures planned for the minor;

(v) the minor has been provided the opportunity to ask questions about the pregnancy, alternative forms of treatment, the risk of nontreatment, the procedures to be used, and the risks and hazards involved; and

(vi) the minor has sufficient information to give informed consent.

(b) a parental consent statement that a parent or legal guardian is required to sign. The parental consent statement must include but is not limited to the following points, each of which must be initialed by a parent or legal guardian:

(i) the parent or legal guardian understands that the physician or physician assistant who signed the physician declaration statement provided for in subsection (3)(c) is going to perform an abortion on the minor that will end the minor's pregnancy;

(ii) the parent or legal guardian had the opportunity to read the consent form or had the opportunity to have the consent form read to the parent or legal guardian;

(iii) the parent or legal guardian had the opportunity to ask questions of the physician or physician assistant or the agent of the physician or physician assistant regarding the information contained in the consent form and the surgical and medical procedures to be performed on the minor;

(iv) the parent or legal guardian has been provided sufficient information to give informed consent.

(c) a physician declaration that the physician or physician assistant is required to sign, declaring that:

(i) the physician or physician assistant or the agent of the physician or physician assistant explained the procedure and contents of the consent form to the minor and a parent or legal guardian of the minor and answered any questions; and

(ii) to the best of the physician's or physician assistant's knowledge, the minor and a parent or legal guardian of the minor have been adequately informed and have consented to the abortion; and

(d) a signature page for a parent or legal guardian of the minor that must be notarized and that includes an acknowledgment by the parent or legal guardian affirming that the parent or legal guardian is the minor's parent or legal guardian.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 2013.**

50-20-506. Proof of identification and relationship to minor — retention of records. (1) A parent or legal guardian of a minor who is consenting to the performance of an abortion on the minor shall provide the attending physician or physician assistant or the agent of the physician or physician assistant with government-issued proof of identity and written documentation that establishes that the parent or legal guardian is the lawful parent or legal guardian of the minor.

(2) A physician or physician assistant shall retain the completed consent form and the documents provided pursuant to subsection (1) in the minor's medical file for 5 years after the minor reaches 18 years of age, but in no event less than 7 years.

(3) A physician or physician assistant receiving documentation under this section shall execute for inclusion in the minor's medical record an affidavit stating: "I, (insert name of physician or physician assistant), certify that according to my best information and belief, a reasonable person under similar circumstances would rely on the information presented by both the minor and the minor's parent or legal guardian as sufficient evidence of identity and relationship."

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 2013.**

50-20-507. Exceptions. Consent is not required under 50-20-504 if:

(1) the attending physician or physician assistant certifies in the minor's medical record that a medical emergency exists and there is insufficient time to provide consent;

(2) consent is waived, in a notarized writing, by the person entitled to give consent; or

(3) consent is waived under 50-20-509.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 2013.**

50-20-508. Coercion prohibited. A parent, a legal guardian, or any other person may not coerce a minor to have an abortion. If a minor is denied financial support by the minor's parents, legal guardian, or custodian because of the minor's refusal to have an abortion, the minor must be considered an emancipated minor for the purposes of eligibility for public assistance benefits. The public assistance benefits may not be used to obtain an abortion.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 307, L. 2013.**

50-20-509. Procedure for judicial waiver of consent. (1) The requirements and procedures under this section are available to minors whether or not they are residents of this state.

(2) A minor may petition the youth court for a waiver of the requirement for consent and may participate in the proceedings on the minor's own behalf. The petition must include a statement that the minor is pregnant and is not emancipated. The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the minor. A guardian ad litem is required to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. The youth court shall advise the minor of the right to assigned counsel and shall order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel upon request.

(3) Proceedings under this section are confidential and must ensure the anonymity of the minor. All proceedings under this section must be sealed. The minor may file the petition using a pseudonym or using the minor's initials. All documents related to the petition and the proceedings on the petition are confidential and are not available to the public. The proceedings on the petition must be given preference over other pending matters to the extent necessary to ensure that the court reaches a prompt decision. The court shall issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law and rule within 48 hours of the time that the petition is filed unless the

time is extended at the request of the minor. If the court fails to rule within 48 hours and the time is not extended, the petition is granted and the requirement for consent is waived.

(4) If the court finds that the minor is competent to decide whether to have an abortion, the court shall issue an order authorizing the minor to consent to the performance or inducement of an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

(5) The court shall issue an order authorizing the minor to consent to an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian if the court finds that:

(a) there is evidence of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse of the minor by one or both parents, a legal guardian, or a custodian; or

(b) the consent of a parent or legal guardian is not in the best interests of the minor.

(6) If the court does not make a finding specified in subsection (4) or (5), the court shall dismiss the petition.

(7) A court that conducts proceedings under this section shall issue written and specific findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting its decision and shall order that a confidential record of the evidence, findings, and conclusions be maintained.

(8) The supreme court may adopt rules providing an expedited confidential appeal by a minor if the youth court denies a petition. An order authorizing an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian is not subject to appeal.

(9) Filing fees may not be required of a minor who petitions a court for a waiver of the requirement for consent or who appeals a denial of a petition.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 307, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

50-20-510. Criminal and civil penalties. (1) A person convicted of performing an abortion in violation of 50-20-504 shall be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both. On a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be fined an amount not less than $500 or more than $50,000 and be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than 10 days or more than 5 years, or both.

(2) Failure to obtain the consent required under 50-20-504 is prima facie evidence in an appropriate civil action for a violation of a professional obligation. The evidence does not apply to issues other than failure to obtain the consent of a parent or legal guardian. A civil action may be based on a claim that the failure to obtain consent was the result of a violation of the appropriate legal standard of care. Failure to obtain consent is presumed to be actual malice pursuant to the provisions of 27-1-221. This part does not limit the common-law rights of parents.

(3) A person who coerces a minor to have an abortion is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both. On a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be fined an amount not less than $500 or more than $50,000 and be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than 10 days or more than 5 years, or both.

(4) A person not authorized to grant consent under 50-20-504 who signs a consent form provided for in 50-20-505 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

50-20-511. Construction. Nothing in this part may be construed as creating or recognizing a right to abortion. It is not the intention of this part to make lawful an abortion that is currently unlawful.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 307, L. 2013.

Part 6
Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

50-20-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

50-20-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Fertilization" means the fusion of a human spermatozoon with a human ovum.

(2) "Gestational age" means the age of an unborn child, calculated from the first day of the woman's last menstrual period.

(3) "Knowing" or "knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(4) (a) "Medical emergency" means a condition that, in reasonable medical judgment, so complicates the medical condition of a pregnant woman that it necessitates the immediate abortion of the woman's pregnancy without first determining gestational age in order to avert the woman's death or for which the delay necessary to determine gestational age will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions.

(b) The term does not include a condition that is based on a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct that the woman intends to result in the woman's death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

(5) "Medical practitioner" means a person authorized under 50-20-109 to perform an abortion.

(6) "Probable gestational age of the unborn child" means what, in reasonable medical judgment, will with reasonable probability be the gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion is planned to be performed or attempted.

(7) "Purposeful" or "purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(8) "Reasonable medical judgment" means a medical judgment that would be made by a reasonably prudent medical practitioner who is knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the medical conditions involved.

(9) "Serious health risk to the unborn child's mother" means that, in reasonable medical judgment, the mother has a condition that so complicates the mother's medical condition that it necessitates the abortion of the mother's pregnancy to avert the mother's death or to avert serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions. No greater risk may be determined to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the mother will engage in conduct that the mother intends to result in the mother's death or in substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

(10) "Unborn child" or "fetus" means an individual organism of the species homo sapiens from fertilization until live birth.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

50-20-603. Protection of unborn child capable of feeling pain from abortion. (1) (a) A person may not perform or attempt to perform an abortion of an unborn child capable of feeling pain unless it is necessary to prevent a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (1), an unborn child is capable of feeling pain when it has been determined by the medical practitioner performing or attempting the abortion or by another medical practitioner on whose determination the medical practitioner relies that the probable gestational age of the unborn child is 20 or more weeks.

(2) Except in the case of a medical emergency, an abortion may not be performed or attempted unless the medical practitioner has first made a determination of the probable gestational age of the unborn child or relied on a determination made by another medical practitioner. In making this determination, the medical practitioner shall make inquiries of the woman and perform or cause to be performed medical examinations and tests that a reasonably prudent practitioner who is knowledgeable about the case and the medical conditions involved would consider necessary to perform in making an accurate diagnosis with respect to gestational age.

(3) When an abortion of an unborn child capable of feeling pain is necessary to prevent a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother, the medical practitioner shall terminate the pregnancy in the manner that, in reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive unless, in reasonable medical judgment, termination of the pregnancy in that manner would pose a greater risk either of the death of the pregnant woman or of the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions, of the woman than would other available methods. No greater risk may be determined to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct that the woman intends to result in the woman's death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

50-20-604. Criminal penalties. A person who purposely or knowingly performs or attempts to perform an abortion in violation of 50-20-603 is guilty of a felony punishable in accordance with 50-20-112.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

50-20-605. Civil remedies. (1) A woman on whom an abortion has been performed or attempted in violation of 50-20-603 or the father of the unborn child who was the subject of the abortion may maintain an action against the person who performed or attempted the abortion in a purposeful or knowing violation of 50-20-603 for actual and punitive damages.

(2) (a) A cause of action for injunctive relief against a person who has purposely or knowingly violated 50-20-603 may be maintained by:

(i) the woman on whom an abortion was performed or attempted or, if the woman is a minor, the woman's parent or guardian;

(ii) a person who is the spouse of the woman on whom an abortion has been performed or attempted;

(iii) a prosecuting attorney with appropriate jurisdiction; or

(iv) the attorney general.

(b) The injunction must prevent the person from performing or attempting additional abortions in violation of 50-20-603 in this state.

(3) If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in an action described in this section, the court shall order the defendant to pay reasonable attorney fees to the plaintiff.

(4) If judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the court finds that the plaintiff's lawsuit was frivolous and brought in bad faith, the court shall order the plaintiff to pay reasonable attorney fees to the defendant.

(5) Damages or attorney fees may not be assessed against the woman on whom an abortion was performed or attempted except in accordance with subsection (4).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

50-20-606. Protection of privacy in court proceedings. In a civil or criminal proceeding brought under 50-20-604 or 50-20-605, the court shall determine whether the anonymity of the woman on whom an abortion has been performed or attempted must be preserved from public disclosure if the woman does not consent to the disclosure. The court, on motion or sua sponte, shall make a determination and, on determining that the woman's anonymity should be preserved, shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to safeguard the woman's identity from public disclosure. The order must be accompanied by specific written findings explaining why the anonymity of the woman should be preserved from public disclosure, why the order is essential to that end, how the order is narrowly tailored to serve that interest, and why no reasonable, less restrictive alternative exists. In the absence of written consent of the woman on whom an abortion has been performed or attempted, anyone, other than a public official, who brings an action under 50-20-605(1) or (2) shall do so under a pseudonym. This section may not be construed to conceal from the defendant or from attorneys for the defendant the identity of the plaintiff or of witnesses.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 2021.

Part 7

Montana Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act

50-20-701. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-702. Legislative findings and purpose. The purpose of this part is to further the important and compelling state interests of:

(1) protecting the health and welfare of a woman considering a chemical abortion;

(2) ensuring that a medical practitioner examines a woman prior to dispensing an abortion-inducing drug in order to confirm the gestational age of the unborn child, the intrauterine location of the unborn child, and that the unborn child is alive because the routine

administration of an abortion-inducing drug following spontaneous miscarriage is unnecessary and exposes the woman to unnecessary risks associated with the abortion-inducing drug;

(3) ensuring that a medical practitioner does not prescribe or dispense an abortion-inducing drug after 70 days have elapsed since the first day of a woman's last menstrual period;

(4) reducing the risk that a woman may elect an abortion only to discover later, with devastating psychological consequences, that the woman's decision was not fully informed;

(5) ensuring that a woman considering a chemical abortion receives comprehensive information on abortion-inducing drugs, including the potential to reverse the effects of the drugs if the woman changes the woman's mind, and that a woman submitting to an abortion does so only after giving voluntary and fully informed consent to the procedure; and

(6) promoting the health and safety of women by adding to the sum of medical and public health knowledge through the compilation of relevant data on chemical abortions performed in the state as well as data on all medical complications and maternal deaths resulting from these abortions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-703. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abortion" means the act of using or prescribing an instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman, with knowledge that termination by those means will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of the unborn child. The term does not include an act to terminate a pregnancy with the intent to:

(a) save the life or preserve the health of the unborn child;

(b) remove a dead unborn child caused by spontaneous abortion;

(c) remove an ectopic pregnancy; or

(d) treat a maternal disease or illness for which the prescribed drug is indicated.

(2) "Abortion-inducing drug" or "chemical abortion" means a medicine, drug, or any other substance provided with the intent of terminating the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with knowledge that the termination will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of the unborn child. This includes the off-label use of drugs known to have abortion-inducing properties, which are prescribed specifically with the intent of causing an abortion, such as mifepristone, misoprostol, and methotrexate. The term does not include drugs that may be known to cause an abortion that are prescribed for other medical indications.

(3) "Adverse event" means an untoward medical occurrence associated with the use of a drug in humans, whether or not considered drug-related. The term does not include an adverse event or suspected adverse reaction that, had it occurred in a more severe form, might have caused death.

(4) "Associated medical practitioner" means a person authorized under 50-20-109 to perform an abortion who has entered into an associated medical practitioner agreement.

(5) "Complication" means an adverse physical or psychological condition arising from the performance of an abortion, including but not limited to uterine perforation, cervical perforation, infection, heavy or uncontrolled bleeding, hemorrhage, blood clots resulting in pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis, failure to actually terminate the pregnancy, incomplete abortion, pelvic inflammatory disease, endometritis, missed ectopic pregnancy, cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, renal failure, metabolic disorder, shock, embolism, coma, placenta previa in subsequent pregnancies, preterm delivery in subsequent pregnancies, free fluid in the abdomen, hemolytic reaction due to the administration of ABO-incompatible blood or blood products, adverse reactions to anesthesia and other drugs, subsequent development of breast cancer, death, psychological complications such as depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, and sleeping disorders, and any other adverse event.

(6) "Last menstrual period" or "gestational age" means the time that has elapsed since the first day of the woman's last menstrual period.

(7) "Medical practitioner" means a person authorized under 50-20-109 to perform an abortion in this state.

(8) "Pregnant" or "pregnancy" means the female reproductive condition of having an unborn child in the uterus.

(9) "Provide" mean any act of giving, selling, dispensing, administering, transferring possession to, or otherwise providing or prescribing an abortion-inducing drug.

(10) "Qualified medical practitioner" means a medical practitioner who has the ability to:

(a) identify and document a viable intrauterine pregnancy;

(b) assess the gestational age of pregnancy and inform the woman of gestational age-specific risks;

(c) diagnose ectopic pregnancy;

(d) determine blood type and administer RhoGAM if a woman is Rh negative;

(e) assess for signs of domestic abuse, reproductive control, human trafficking, and other signals of coerced abortion;

(f) provide surgical intervention or who has entered into a contract with another qualified medical practitioner to provide surgical intervention; and

(g) supervise and bear legal responsibility for any agent, employee, or contractor who is participating in any part of a procedure, including but not limited to preprocedure evaluation and care.

(11) "Unborn child" means an individual organism of the species homo sapiens, beginning at fertilization, until the point of being born alive as defined in 1 U.S.C. 8(b).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 2021.**

50-20-704. In-person requirement. An abortion-inducing drug may be provided only by a qualified medical practitioner following the procedures set forth in this part. A manufacturer, supplier, medical practitioner, qualified medical practitioner, or any other person may not provide an abortion-inducing drug via courier, delivery, or mail service.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 2021.**

50-20-705. Distribution of abortion-inducing drugs. (1) Because the failure and complication rates from a chemical abortion increase with advancing gestational age and because the physical symptoms of chemical abortion can be identical to the symptoms of ectopic pregnancy and abortion-inducing drugs do not treat ectopic pregnancies and are contraindicated in ectopic pregnancies, the qualified medical practitioner providing an abortion-inducing drug shall examine the woman in person and, prior to providing an abortion-inducing drug, shall:

(a) independently verify that a pregnancy exists;

(b) determine the woman's blood type, and if the woman is Rh negative, be able to and offer to administer RhoGAM at the time of the abortion;

(c) inform the woman that the woman may see the remains of the unborn child in the process of completing the abortion; and

(d) document in the woman's medical chart the gestational age and intrauterine location of the pregnancy and whether the woman received treatment for Rh negativity, as diagnosed by the most accurate standard of medical care.

(2) A qualified medical practitioner providing an abortion-inducing drug must be credentialed and competent to handle complications management, including emergency transfer, or must have a signed contract with an associated medical practitioner who is credentialed to handle complications and must be able to produce the signed contract on demand by the woman or by the department. Each woman to whom a qualified medical practitioner provides an abortion-inducing drug must be given the name and phone number of the associated medical practitioner.

(3) The qualified medical practitioner providing an abortion-inducing drug, or an agent of the qualified medical practitioner, shall schedule a followup visit for the woman at approximately 7 to 14 days after administration of the abortion-inducing drug to confirm that the pregnancy is completely terminated and to assess the degree of bleeding. The qualified medical practitioner shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the woman returns for the scheduled appointment. A brief description of the efforts made to comply with this subsection, including the date, time, and identification by name of the person making the efforts, must be included in the woman's medical record.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 2021.**

50-20-706. Prohibition on providing abortion-inducing drugs at elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools. An abortion-inducing drug may not be provided in an elementary, secondary, or postsecondary school facility or on school grounds.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-707. Informed consent requirements for abortion-inducing drugs. (1) An abortion-inducing drug may not be provided without the informed consent of the pregnant woman to whom the abortion-inducing drug is being provided.

(2) Informed consent to a chemical abortion must be obtained at least 24 hours before the abortion-inducing drug is provided to the pregnant woman except when, in reasonable medical judgment, compliance with this subsection would pose a greater risk of:

(a) the death of the pregnant woman; or

(b) the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, not including psychological or emotional conditions, of the pregnant woman.

(3) A form created by the department must be used by a qualified medical practitioner to obtain the consent required prior to providing an abortion-inducing drug.

(4) A consent form is not valid and consent is not sufficient unless:

(a) the woman initials each entry, list, description, or declaration required to be included in the consent form as provided in subsection (5);

(b) the woman signs the consent statement described in subsection (5)(j); and

(c) the qualified medical practitioner signs the qualified medical practitioner declaration described in subsection (5)(k).

(5) The consent form must include, but is not limited to the following:

(a) the probable gestational age of the unborn child as determined by both patient history and ultrasound results used to confirm gestational age;

(b) a detailed description of the steps to complete the chemical abortion;

(c) a detailed list of the risks related to the specific abortion-inducing drug or drugs to be used, including but not limited to hemorrhage, failure to remove all tissue of the unborn child, which may require an additional procedure, sepsis, sterility, and possible continuation of pregnancy;

(d) information about Rh incompatibility, including that if the pregnant woman has an Rh negative blood type, the woman should receive an injection of Rh immunoglobulin at the time of the abortion to prevent Rh incompatibility in future pregnancies, which can lead to complications and miscarriage in future pregnancies;

(e) a description of the risks of complications from a chemical abortion, including incomplete abortion, which increase with advancing gestational age;

(f) information about the possibility of reversing the effects of the chemical abortion if the pregnant woman changes the woman's mind and that time is of the essence;

(g) information that the pregnant woman could see the remains of the unborn child in the process of completing the abortion;

(h) information that initial studies suggest that children born after reversing the effects of an abortion-inducing drug have no greater risk of birth defects than the general population and that initial studies suggest that there is no increased risk of maternal mortality after reversing the effects of an abortion-inducing drug;

(i) notice that information on and assistance with reversing the effects of abortion-inducing drugs are available in the state-prepared materials;

(j) an acknowledgment of risks and consent statement, which must be signed by the woman. The statement must include but is not limited to the following declarations, which must be individually initialed by the woman, that:

(i) the woman understands that the abortion-inducing drug regimen or procedure is intended to end the woman's pregnancy and will result in the death of the unborn child;

(ii) the woman is not being forced to have an abortion, the woman has the choice not to have the abortion, and the woman may withdraw the woman's consent to the abortion-inducing drug regimen even after beginning the abortion-inducing drug regimen;

(iii) the woman understands that the chemical abortion regimen or procedure to be used has specific risks and may result in specific complications;

(iv) the woman has been given the opportunity to ask questions about the woman's pregnancy, the development of the unborn child, alternatives to abortion, the abortion-inducing drug or drugs to be used, and the risks and complications inherent to the abortion-inducing drug or drugs to be used;

(v) the woman was specifically told that "information on the potential ability of qualified medical professionals to reverse the effects of an abortion obtained through the use of abortion-inducing drugs is available at www.abortionpillreversal.com, or you can contact (877) 558-0333 for assistance in locating a medical professional who can aid in the reversal of an abortion";

(vi) the woman has been provided access to state-prepared, printed materials on informed consent for abortion;

(vii) if applicable, the woman has been given the name and phone number of the associated medical practitioner who has agreed to provide medical care and treatment in the event of complications associated with the abortion-inducing drug regimen or procedure;

(viii) the qualified medical practitioner will schedule an in-person follow-up visit for the woman approximately 7 to 14 days after providing the abortion-inducing drug or drugs to confirm that the pregnancy is completely terminated and to assess the degree of bleeding and other complications;

(ix) the woman has received or been given sufficient information to give the woman's informed consent to the abortion-inducing drug regimen or procedure; and

(x) the woman has a private right of action to sue the qualified medical practitioner under the laws of the state if the woman feels coerced or misled prior to obtaining an abortion and how to access state resources regarding the woman's legal right to obtain relief.

(k) a qualified medical practitioner declaration that must be signed by the qualified medical practitioner stating that the qualified medical practitioner has explained the abortion-inducing drug or drugs to be used, has provided all of the information required in this subsection (5), and has answered all of the woman's questions.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-708. Information required in state-prepared materials. (1) The department shall publish state-prepared, printed materials on informed consent for abortion and shall include the following statement:

"Information on the potential ability of qualified medical practitioners to reverse the effects of an abortion obtained through the use of abortion-inducing drugs is available at www.abortionpillreversal.com, or you can contact (877) 558-0333 for assistance in locating a medical professional who can aid in the reversal of an abortion."

(2) The department shall annually review and update, if necessary, the statement requirement under subsection (1).

(3) As part of the informed consent counseling services required in 50-20-707, the qualified medical practitioner shall inform the pregnant woman about abortion pill reversal and provide the woman with the state-prepared materials described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-709. Reporting on chemical abortions. (1) For the purpose of promoting maternal health and adding to the sum of medical and public health knowledge through the compilation of relevant data, a report of each chemical abortion performed must be made to the department on forms prescribed by the department. The reports must be completed by the facility in which the abortion-inducing drug was provided, signed by the qualified medical practitioner who provided the abortion-inducing drug, and transmitted to the department within 15 days after each reporting month.

(2) A report must include, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) identification of the qualified medical practitioner who provided the abortion-inducing drug;

(b) whether the chemical abortion was completed at the facility in which the abortion-inducing drug was provided or at an alternative location;

(c) the referring medical practitioner, agency, or service, if any;

(d) the pregnant woman's county, state, and country of residence;

(e) the pregnant woman's age and race;

(f) the number of previous pregnancies, number of live births, and number of previous abortions of the pregnant woman;

(g) the probable gestational age of the unborn child as determined by both patient history and ultrasound results used to confirm the gestational age. The report must include the date of the ultrasound and gestational age determined on that date.

(h) the abortion-inducing drug or drugs used, the date each was provided to the pregnant woman, and the reason for the abortion, if known;

(i) preexisting medical conditions of the pregnant woman that would complicate the pregnancy, if any;

(j) whether the woman returned for a follow-up examination to determine completion of the abortion procedure and to assess bleeding, the date and results of the follow-up examination, and what reasonable efforts were made by the qualified medical practitioner to encourage the woman to return for a follow-up examination if the woman did not;

(k) whether the woman suffered any complications and, if so, what specific complications arose and what follow-up treatment was needed; and

(l) the amount billed to cover the treatment for specific complications, including whether the treatment was billed to medicaid, private insurance, private pay, or another method, including charges for any physician, hospital, emergency room, prescription or other drugs, laboratory tests, and other costs for treatment rendered.

(3) Reports required under this section may not contain:

(a) the name of the pregnant woman;

(b) common identifiers, such as a social security number or driver's license number; or

(c) other information or identifiers that would make it possible to identify, in any manner or under any circumstances, a pregnant woman who has obtained or seeks to obtain a chemical abortion.

(4) A qualified medical practitioner who provides an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant woman who knows that the woman experiences, during or after the use of the abortion-inducing drug, an adverse event shall provide a written report of the adverse event within 3 days of the event to the United States food and drug administration via the medwatch reporting system, to the department, and to the state board of medical examiners.

(5) (a) A medical practitioner, qualified medical practitioner, associated medical practitioner, or other health care provider who treats a woman, either contemporaneously to or at any time after a chemical abortion, for an adverse event or complication related to a chemical abortion shall make a report of the adverse event to the department on forms prescribed by the department. The reports must be completed by the facility in which the adverse event or complication treatment was provided, signed by the medical practitioner, qualified medical practitioner, associated medical practitioner, or other health care provider who treated the adverse event or complication, and transmitted to the department within 15 days after each reporting month.

(b) The report must include, at a minimum:

(i) the information required under subsections (2)(a) through (2)(j) and (2)(l); and

(ii) information about the specific complications that arose, whether an emergency transfer was required, and whether any followup treatment was needed, including whether additional drugs or medications were provided in order to complete the abortion.

(6) The department shall provide, in accordance with 5-11-210, a comprehensive annual statistical report for the legislature based on the data gathered from reports under this section. The aggregated data must also be made available to the public by the department in a downloadable format.

(7) The department shall summarize aggregate data from the reports required under this part and submit the data to the U.S. centers for disease control and prevention for the purpose of inclusion in the annual vital statistics report.

(8) Reports filed pursuant to this section must be deemed public records and must be available to the public in accordance with the confidentiality and public records reporting laws of this state. Original copies of all reports filed under this section must be available to the state board of medical examiners, state board of pharmacy, state law enforcement officials, and child protective services for use in the performance of their official duties.

(9) Absent a valid court order or judicial subpoena, the department or any other state department, agency, office, or employee may not compare data concerning chemical abortions or abortion complications maintained in an electronic or other information system file with data in any other electronic or other information system, the comparison of which could result in identifying, in any manner or under any circumstances, a woman obtaining or seeking to obtain a chemical abortion.

(10) Statistical information that may reveal the identity of a woman obtaining or seeking to obtain a chemical abortion may not be maintained by the department or any other state department, agency, office, employee, or contractor.

(11) The department shall communicate the reporting requirements of this section to all medical professional organizations, medical practitioners, and facilities operating in the state.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 309, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 13, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-20-710. Production of reporting forms. The department shall create and distribute the forms required by this part within 60 days after October 1, 2021.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-711. Criminal penalties. (1) A person who purposely or knowingly or negligently violates any provision of this part is guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000, be imprisoned in a state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years, or both. As used in this section, "purposely", "knowingly", and "negligently" have the meanings provided in 45-2-101.

(2) A criminal penalty may not be assessed against the pregnant woman on whom the chemical abortion is attempted or performed.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-712. Civil remedies and professional sanctions. (1) In addition to all other remedies available under the laws of this state, failure to comply with the requirements of this part:

(a) provides a basis for a civil malpractice action for actual and punitive damages;

(b) provides a basis for professional disciplinary action under Title 37 for the suspension or revocation of the license of a health care provider; and

(c) provides a basis for recovery for the woman's survivors for the wrongful death of the woman under 27-1-513.

(2) Civil liability may not be imposed against the pregnant woman on whom the chemical abortion is attempted or performed.

(3) When requested, the court shall allow a woman to proceed using solely the woman's initials or a pseudonym and may close any proceedings in the case and enter other protective orders to preserve the privacy of the woman on whom the chemical abortion was attempted or performed.

(4) If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff, the court shall also render judgment for reasonable attorney fees in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant.

(5) If judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the court finds that the plaintiff's suit was frivolous and brought in bad faith, the court may render judgment for reasonable attorney fees in favor of the defendant against the plaintiff.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-713. Construction. This part may not be construed to:

(1) create or recognize a right to abortion;

(2) make lawful an abortion that is otherwise unlawful; or

(3) repeal, replace, or otherwise invalidate existing federal laws, regulations, or policies.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

50-20-714. Right of intervention. The legislature, by joint resolution, may appoint one or more of its members, who sponsored or cosponsored this part in the member's official capacity, to intervene as a matter of right in any case in which the constitutionality of this part is challenged.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 309, L. 2021.

Part 8
Infant Safety and Care Act

Part Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 392, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 3, 2023.

50-20-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Infant Safety and Care Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-802. Legislative findings. The legislature finds, with respect to this part, that:

(1) there is a compelling interest in protecting the life of an infant born alive following an attempted abortion;

(2) an infant born alive following an attempted abortion is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of this state and is entitled to all protections under these laws; and

(3) an infant born alive following an attempted abortion in an abortion clinic, medical facility, or other facility is entitled to the same protections under the law that would arise for any newborn infant or for any person who comes to a medical facility or other facility for screening or treatment or otherwise becomes a patient in the facility's care.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-803. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abortion clinic" means a health care provider that performs any abortion procedure or provides an abortion-inducing drug.

(2) (a) "Abortion-inducing drug" means a medicine, drug, or any other substance provided, prescribed, or dispensed with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with the knowledge that the termination will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of the unborn child.

(b) The term includes the off-label use of drugs known to have abortion-inducing properties that are prescribed specifically with the intent of causing an abortion.

(c) The term does not include a drug that may be known to cause an abortion that is prescribed for other medical indications.

(3) "Born alive" means the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a human infant, at any stage of development, who, after expulsion or extraction, breathes, has a beating heart, or has definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut and regardless of whether the expulsion or extraction occurs as a result of natural or induced labor, cesarean section, induced abortion, or another method.

(4) "Health care provider" means an individual who may be asked to participate in any way in a health care service or procedure, including but not limited to a physician, physician's assistant, nurse, certified nursing assistant, medical assistant, hospital employee, medical facility employee, or abortion clinic employee.

(5) "Knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(6) "Medical facility" means a public or private hospital, clinic, center, medical school, medical training institute, health care facility, physician's office, infirmary, dispensary, ambulatory surgical treatment center, or other institution or location where medical care or treatment is provided to an individual.

(7) "Purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-804. Infant safety and protection. (1) A health care provider present at the time an infant is born alive following an abortion or an attempted abortion shall:

(a) exercise the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the infant as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care provider would render to any other infant born alive at the same gestational age; and

(b) following the exercise of skill, care, and diligence required under subsection (1)(a), ensure the infant born alive is immediately transported and admitted to a medical facility.

(2) The requirements of this section may not be construed to prevent an infant's parents or guardian from refusing to give consent to medical treatment or surgical care that is not medically necessary or reasonable, including care or treatment that:

(a) is not necessary to save the life of the infant;

(b) has a potential risk to the infant's life or health that outweighs the potential benefit to the infant from the treatment or care; or

(c) will do no more than temporarily prolong the act of dying when death is imminent.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-805. Criminal penalties — professional sanctions — civil liability. (1) A health care provider who purposely or knowingly violates 50-20-804 commits a felony offense and, on conviction, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed $1,000, imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both.

(2) A licensed health care provider who purposely or knowingly violates the prohibition in 50-20-804 commits an act of unprofessional conduct, and the individual's license to practice medicine in this state must be suspended for a minimum of 1 year pursuant to Title 37.

(3) In addition to all other remedies available under the laws of this state, failure to comply with the requirements of this part provides a basis for:

(a) a civil malpractice action for actual and punitive damages; and

(b) a civil fine of not less than $5,000 for each violation imposed by the department of justice.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-806. Mandatory reporting. A health care provider, medical facility, abortion clinic, or employee or volunteer of a medical facility or abortion clinic with knowledge of a violation of this part shall immediately report the violation to the department of justice.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-807. Right of intervention. The legislature, by joint resolution, may appoint one or more of its members to intervene as a matter of right in any case in which the constitutionality or enforceability of this part is challenged.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

50-20-808. Construction. This part does not prohibit the application of the laws of this state protecting children to infants born alive during an attempted abortion.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 392, L. 2023.

Part 9
Licensure and Regulation of Abortion Clinics

50-20-901. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Abortion clinic" means a facility that:

(i) performs surgical abortion procedures; or

(ii) provides an abortion-inducing drug.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a hospital as defined in 50-5-101;

(ii) a critical access hospital as defined in 50-5-101;

(iii) an outpatient center for surgical services as defined in 50-5-101; or

(iv) a facility that provides, prescribes, administers, or dispenses an abortion-inducing drug to fewer than five patients each year.

(2) (a) "Abortion-inducing drug" means a medicine, drug, or other substance provided with the intent of terminating the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman.

(b) The term includes the off-label use of drugs known to have abortion-inducing properties that are prescribed specifically with the intent of causing an abortion.

(c) The term does not include the use of drugs that may be known to cause an abortion if the drugs are prescribed for a medical indication other than abortion.

(3) "Affiliate" means an organization that directly or indirectly:

(a) owns or controls another organization;

(b) is owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by another organization;

(c) is related by shareholdings or other means of control to another organization;

(d) is a parent or subsidiary of another organization; or

(e) is under common control with another organization.

(4) "Medical practitioner" means a person authorized under 50-20-109 to perform an abortion in this state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-20-902. Licensure of abortion clinics — application — fee. (1) A person may not operate or advertise the operation of an abortion clinic unless the person is licensed by the department.

(2) An applicant for licensure as an abortion clinic shall apply on a form prescribed by the department containing information requested by the department pursuant to 50-20-903, including:

(a) an attestation that the applicant is of reputable and responsible character and is able to comply with rules adopted under 50-20-903;

(b) the name of the applicant;

(c) the location of the abortion clinic and the name of the person in charge of the abortion clinic;

(d) the qualifications of the applicant or of the medical practitioners employed by or to be employed by the abortion clinic to perform surgical abortion procedures or to prescribe, administer, or provide abortion-inducing drugs; and

(e) disclosures regarding:

(i) whether the applicant or an owner or affiliate of the applicant operated an abortion clinic that was closed as a direct result of patient health and safety;

(ii) whether an owner or clinic staff member has been convicted of a felony offense; and

(iii) whether an owner or clinic staff member was ever employed by a facility owned or operated by the applicant that closed because of administrative or legal action.

(3) An applicant for licensure shall include with the application copies of:

(a) administrative and legal documentation relating to information required under subsections (2)(e)(i) and (2)(e)(ii);

(b) inspection reports, if any; and

(c) violation remediation contracts, if any.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 492, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-20-903. Department regulation of abortion clinics — rulemaking. (1) In accordance with Title 50, chapter 5, the department shall license and regulate abortion clinics as provided in this part and shall enforce the provisions of this part.

(2) The department shall adopt administrative rules for the licensure and operation of abortion clinics, including rules:

(a) establishing minimum license qualifications;

(b) establishing requirements for:

(i) sanitation standards;

(ii) staff qualifications;

(iii) necessary emergency equipment;

(iv) providing emergency care;

(v) monitoring patients after the administration of anesthesia;

(vi) providing follow-up care for patient complications;

(vii) quality assurance;

(viii) infection control;

(ix) the architecture or layout of an abortion clinic;

(x) providing to patients a hotline telephone number to assist women who are coerced into an abortion or who are victims of sex trafficking; and

(xi) obtaining annual training by law enforcement on identifying and assisting women who are coerced into an abortion or who are victims of sex trafficking;

(c) establishing operating policies for maintaining medical records, including the requirement that forms requiring a patient signature be stored in the patient's medical record;

(d) establishing procedures for the issuance, renewal, denial, and revocation of licenses, including:

(i) the form and content of the license; and

(ii) the collection of an annual license fee of $450, payable to the department for deposit in the general fund;

(e) establishing procedures and standards for inspections; and

(f) establishing procedures for addressing any violations of this section or rules adopted pursuant to this section.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 492, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

50-20-904. Inspections. In accordance with Title 50, chapter 5, the department shall inspect an abortion clinic at least once each calendar year. If the department receives a complaint involving an abortion clinic, the department may conduct additional investigations as needed.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 492, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 10

Dismemberment Abortion Prohibition Act

50-20-1001. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Dismemberment Abortion Prohibition Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 16, 2023.

50-20-1002. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or other substance or device to intentionally terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant, with an intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, or to remove a dead unborn human being.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) an act to remove an ectopic pregnancy; or

(ii) a separation procedure performed because of a medical emergency and prior to the ability of the unborn child to survive outside of the womb with or without artificial support.

(2) "Attempt to perform or induce an abortion" means to do or omit anything that, under the circumstances as a person believes them to be, is an act or omission that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the performance or induction of an abortion in violation of this part.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Dismemberment abortion" or "dismemberment abortion procedure" means a procedure that involves:

(a) the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or other substance or device to intentionally terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman with knowledge that the termination by those means will, with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the unborn human being; and

(b) dilation of the cervix, insertion of grasping instruments, and removal of disarticulated fetal parts from a living unborn human being.

(5) "Gestational age" or "probable gestation age" means the age of an unborn human being as calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period of the pregnant woman.

(6) "Human being" means an individual member of the species Homo sapiens, from and after the point of conception.

(7) "Knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(8) "Major bodily function" includes but is not limited to functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

(9) (a) "Medical emergency" means a condition that, on the basis of a physician's good faith clinical judgment, makes a separation procedure performed prior to the ability of the

unborn human being to survive outside of the womb with or without artificial support necessary to preserve the life of a pregnant woman whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition arising from the pregnancy itself, or when the continuation of the pregnancy will create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

(b) The term does not include mental or psychological conditions.

(10) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in Montana.

(11) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed under Title 37, chapter 20.

(12) "Pregnant" means the human female reproductive condition of having a living unborn human being within the female's body throughout the entire embryonic and fetal stages of the unborn human being from fertilization to full gestation and childbirth.

(13) "Purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 16, 2023.

50-20-1003. Dismemberment abortion procedures prohibited — penalty. (1) Except in a medical emergency, a person may not purposely or knowingly perform, induce, or attempt to perform or induce a dismemberment abortion procedure.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction shall be punished by a fine in an amount not to exceed $50,000, imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years, or both.

(3) A woman on whom an abortion is performed, induced, or attempted in violation of this part may not be prosecuted for conspiracy to commit a violation of this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 490, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 16, 2023.

50-20-1004. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Reporting — forms.** (1) If a physician or physician assistant performs a dismemberment abortion procedure because of a medical emergency, the physician or the physician assistant shall, within 15 days, file with the department on a form supplied by the department a report containing the following information:

(a) the date the procedure was performed;

(b) the probable gestational age of the unborn human being and the method used to calculate gestational age;

(c) a statement declaring that the procedure was necessary because of a medical emergency;

(d) the specific medical indications supporting the determination that a medical emergency existed; and

(e) the physician's or the physician assistant's attestation under oath that the information stated on the form is true and correct to the best of the person's knowledge.

(2) Reports required by and submitted pursuant to this section may not contain the name of the pregnant woman on whom the dismemberment abortion procedure was performed or any other information or identifiers that would make it possible to identify, in any manner or under any circumstances, the woman who underwent the procedure.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date — Contingency: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on the later of passage and approval or the date the department of public health and human services certifies in writing to the Code Commissioner that the form required under [section 4] [50-20-1004] has been created.

50-20-1005. *(Subsections (2) and (3) effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Professional sanctions — civil fines — enforcement.** (1) A physician or physician assistant who purposely or knowingly violates 50-20-1003 commits unprofessional conduct, and the person's license to practice medicine in Montana must be suspended for a minimum of 1 year pursuant to Title 37.

(2) A physician or physician assistant who purposely or knowingly delivers to the department a report required under 50-20-1004 that is known by the person to contain false information shall be subject to a fine of $2,000 imposed by the department.

(3) A physician or physician assistant who purposely or knowingly fails to file with the department a report required under 50-20-1004 shall be subject to a fine of $1,000 imposed by the department.

(4) The attorney general may enforce the provisions of this part on behalf of the department. The department also has the authority to bring an action.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 490, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Dates — Contingency: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Section 4] [50-20-1004] and [section 5(2) and (3)] [50-20-1005(2) and (3)] are effective on the later of:

(a) passage and approval; or

(b) the date the department of public health and human services certifies in writing to the code commissioner that the form required under [section 4] [50-20-1004] has been created." Subsections (1) and (4) effective May 16, 2023.

50-20-1006. Construction. (1) This part may not be construed to:

(a) create or recognize a right to abortion or a right to government funding of abortion;

(b) alter generally accepted medical standards; or

(c) make lawful an abortion that is otherwise unlawful.

(2) The right of individual privacy as referenced in the Montana constitution, the Montana Code Annotated, or the Administrative Rules of Montana does not create, and may not be construed as creating or recognizing, a right to abortion or to governmental funding of abortion.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 490, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 16, 2023.

50-20-1007. Right of intervention. The legislature may, by joint resolution, appoint one or more of its members to intervene as a matter of right in any case in which the constitutionality or enforceability of this part is challenged.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 490, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 11, Ch. 490, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 16, 2023.

CHAPTER 21
CADAVERS AND AUTOPSIES

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-21-101. Procurement of cadavers.
50-21-102. Procedure to procure cadavers.
50-21-103. Limitations on right to perform autopsy or dissection.
50-21-104. Autopsies.
50-21-105. Morticians not affected.
50-21-106. Penalty for unauthorized postmortem examinations.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Provisions relating to corpses, Title 44, ch. 3, part 4.

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

50-21-101. Procurement of cadavers. (1) A medical school in the United States may procure unclaimed human bodies for use in teaching and demonstrations of anatomy.

(2) A physician or podiatrist licensed in the state of Montana may procure a cadaver specimen from a nationally accredited nontransplant anatomic bank for the purposes of anatomic dissection and surgical demonstration and training.

History: **En. Sec. 153, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 2017.**

50-21-102. Procedure to procure cadavers. The procedure to procure a human body for use in teaching and demonstrations of anatomy is as follows:

(1) A medical school shall apply to the person or organization that has custody of the unclaimed body asking that the body be delivered to the school for teaching and demonstration of anatomy.

(2) The medical school shall file a notarized statement with the department of public health and human services showing that proper equipment is available for proper handling, security, and preservation of human bodies.

(3) The body must be kept at the unit, institution, or hospital for at least 3 weeks after the date of death before it can be used.

(4) The medical school shall pay the costs of special preparation and transportation of the body.

(5) A burial permit must accompany each body, and the medical school shall properly register the body and arrange for burial by a licensed mortician at the expense of the medical school.

(6) If there was no request by the deceased person that the deceased's body be buried immediately, the person or organization that has custody may deliver an unclaimed body to the medical school applying.

(7) The medical school shall file a statement with the department stating that the body will be used only for teaching and demonstration of anatomy.

(8) A licensed physician or podiatrist shall contract with a nationally accredited nontransplant anatomic bank for the delivery and disposal of an anatomic specimen for the purposes of conducting anatomical dissection or surgical demonstration and training. The specimen must be delivered to a hospital or surgical center licensed by the state.

History: En. Sec. 154, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5102; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 300, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 318, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Provisions relating to corpses, Title 44, ch. 3, part 4.

Burial permit, 50-15-405.

50-21-103. Limitations on right to perform autopsy or dissection. The right to perform an autopsy, dissect a human body, conduct surgical demonstration or training on a human body, or make any postmortem examination involving dissection of any part of a body is limited to cases:

(1) which are specifically authorized by law;

(2) in which a coroner is authorized to hold an inquest and then only to the extent that the coroner may authorize dissection or autopsy;

(3) authorized by a written statement of the deceased, whether the statement is of a testamentary character or otherwise;

(4) authorized by the husband, wife, or next of kin responsible by law for burial to determine the cause of death and then only to the extent authorized;

(5) in which the decedent died in a hospital operated by the United States department of veterans affairs, Montana school for the deaf and blind, or an institution in the department of corrections or the department of public health and human services, leaving no surviving husband, wife, or next of kin responsible by law for burial and the manager or superintendent of the hospital or institution where death occurred obtains authority on order of the district court to determine the cause of death and then only to the extent authorized by court order;

(6) in which the decedent died in the state, was a resident, but left no surviving husband, wife, or next of kin charged by law with the duty of burial and the attending physician obtains authority on order of the district court for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of death and then only to the extent authorized by court order after it has been shown that the physician made diligent search for the next of kin responsible by law for burial.

History: En. Sec. 155, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5103; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 301, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 318, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Office of County Coroner, Title 7, ch. 4, part 29.

Investigation of death — autopsy, Title 46, ch. 4, part 1.

50-21-104. Autopsies. All autopsies of a human body must be performed by a physician legally authorized to practice medicine in this state. Upon completion, the physician shall send a written report of the physician's findings, including the cause of death if determined, to the:

(1) physician attending the person at the time of death if other than the physician performing the autopsy;

(2) hospital or skilled nursing facility, upon request, where the person died or where the person was confined during the person's last illness to be retained as part of the permanent record of the hospital or skilled nursing facility;

(3) to the next of kin of the decedent or the representative of the decedent's estate upon request and to any other person lawfully requesting the report.

History: En. Sec. 156, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5104; amd. Sec. 1832, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 3.
Exemption from liability for autopsy, 44-3-401.
Investigation of death — autopsy, Title 46, ch. 4, part 1.

50-21-105. Morticians not affected. This chapter shall not restrict the right of a licensed mortician to dissect a human body for proper preparation of the body for burial, cremation, or other disposition provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 157, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5105.

Cross-References

Licensing of morticians, Title 37, ch. 19, part 3.

50-21-106. Penalty for unauthorized postmortem examinations. Unless authorized by law, any person who performs an autopsy, dissection, or other postmortem examination or causes it to be made is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $500.

History: En. Sec. 158, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5106; amd. Sec. 1833, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Penalty for disturbing corpse, 44-3-404.

CHAPTER 22
DETERMINATION OF DEATH

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-22-101. Determination of death.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-22-101. Determination of death. An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards.

History: En. 69-7201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, Title 50, ch. 9.
Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

CHAPTER 23
RABIES CONTROL

Part 1 — Restrictions on Possession of Wild Animals

50-23-101. Definitions.
50-23-102. Prohibition of possession of wild animals — exceptions.
50-23-103. Quarantine — destruction — testing.
50-23-104. Payment of expenses.
50-23-105. Authority to adopt rules.
50-23-106. Injunction — recovery of costs.

Part 1
Restrictions on Possession of Wild Animals

Part Cross-References
Ownership of wild animals, 70-2-111.

50-23-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department of livestock" means the department of livestock provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 31.

(2) "Department of public health and human services" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Person" means an individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, firm, or association.

(4) "Wild animal" means a skunk, fox, raccoon, or bat. Other species of normally nondomesticated animals known to be capable of transmitting rabies may be added to this list through the adoption of rules by the department of public health and human services, with the approval of the department of livestock.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 302, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-23-102. Prohibition of possession of wild animals — exceptions. A person may not possess a wild animal unless the person possessed it for at least 6 months prior to January 1, 1982, or it is used in a fur-bearing enterprise, contained in a zoological exhibition in a manner that it may not come in physical contact with members of the public, or acquired by an educational institution for scientific research.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1834, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References
Property rights in wild and fur-bearing animals, 70-2-111.

50-23-103. Quarantine — destruction — testing. (1) Whenever a person unlawfully possesses a wild animal, the department of public health and human services or the department of livestock may impound the animal and take any other action considered reasonable to protect public health.

(2) If a wild animal, whether unlawfully or lawfully in the possession of a person, has bitten or otherwise exposed a person to the possibility of contracting rabies, the animal may be impounded by the department of public health and human services, the department of livestock, or a local health officer and either quarantined or destroyed and the animal's brain may be tested for rabies.

(3) A lawfully possessed wild animal that is quarantined pursuant to subsection (2) and found not to be rabid must be returned to its owner.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 448, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 303, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-23-104. Payment of expenses. Expenses incurred by the state under 50-23-103 must be paid by the person from whom possession of the wild animal was taken.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 448, L. 1981.

50-23-105. Authority to adopt rules. The department of public health and human services, with the approval of the department of livestock, may adopt rules necessary for the implementation and administration of this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 448, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 304, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-23-106. Injunction — recovery of costs. (1) In addition to any other remedies provided by law, the department of public health and human services or, upon the request of the department of public health and human services, an appropriate county attorney may file an action to enjoin a violation of this part or a rule adopted pursuant to it.

(2) The department of public health and human services or the county attorney, if either prevails in any action brought pursuant to subsection (1), is entitled to recover from the other party the costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney fees incurred.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 448, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 305, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Office of County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.
Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

CHAPTERS 24 THROUGH 29
RESERVED

CHAPTER 30
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-30-101. Short title.
50-30-102. Definitions.
50-30-103. Department authorized to adopt rules.
50-30-104. Department to develop accident prevention and health oriented education programs.
50-30-105. Publication of information by department.
50-30-106. Department to conduct investigations.
50-30-107. Powers and duties of department's agents.
50-30-108. Carriers to permit inspection.

Part 2 — Hazardous Substances

50-30-201. Hazardous substance defined.
50-30-202. Misbranded hazardous substance defined.
50-30-203. Banned hazardous substance defined.
50-30-204. Toxic defined.
50-30-205. Highly toxic defined.
50-30-206. Corrosive defined.
50-30-207. Irritant defined.
50-30-208. Strong sensitizer defined.
50-30-209. Extremely flammable, flammable, and combustible defined.
50-30-210. Radioactive substance defined.
50-30-211. Label defined.
50-30-212. Electrical hazards.
50-30-213. Mechanical hazards.
50-30-214. Thermal hazards.
50-30-215. Declaration of hazardous substance.
50-30-216. Additional labeling requirements.
50-30-217. Exemption from labeling requirements.
50-30-218. When labeling requirement complied with.
50-30-219. Ban of hazardous substance authorized.
50-30-220. Toys and other children's articles.

Part 3 — Prohibited Acts, Penalties, and Remedies

50-30-301. Prohibited acts.
50-30-302. Notice and hearing required prior to prosecution.
50-30-303. Department and county attorney to prosecute violations.
50-30-304. Penalty.
50-30-305. Exceptions to penalty.
50-30-306. Injunction authorized.
50-30-307. Detainer of misbranded or banned hazardous substance.

Chapter Cross-References

Warranty provisions under Uniform Commercial Code, 30-2-312 through 30-2-318.

Weights, measures, standards, and labeling, Title 30, ch. 12.

Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Title 30, ch. 14.

Hazardous waste management, Title 75, ch. 10, part 4.

Regulation of standards and sale of grain, seed, commercial feeds, and fertilizer — regulation of produce — inspection, grading, and packing of apples, Title 80, ch. 3 through 5, 9, 10.

Montana quality labels — regulation of poultry, eggs, and egg dealers — regulation of manufactured dairy products, Title 81, ch. 8, 20, 22.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-30-101. Short title. This chapter shall be cited as the "Montana Consumer Product Safety Act of 1975".

History: En. 69-7101 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7101.

50-30-102. Definitions. In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commerce" means all commerce within this state and subject to the jurisdiction of this state and includes the operation of any business or service establishment.

(2) "Court" means, the district court in the district where the violation occurs.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, or association or its legal representative or agent.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(1) thru (3), (18); amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 306, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

50-30-103. Department authorized to adopt rules. (1) The authority to adopt rules for the efficient enforcement of this chapter is vested in the department.

(2) The department has the authority to adopt by reference without public hearing rules adopted under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as amended.

History: En. 69-7109 by Sec. 9, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7109.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-30-104. Department to develop accident prevention and health oriented education programs. The department, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, shall develop and conduct appropriate accident prevention and health oriented educational programs. The educational programs shall inform the public of the hazards, proper handling and use, disposal, storage, and transportation of hazardous substances and the proper medical and first-aid procedures for accidents resulting from hazardous substances.

History: En. 69-7112 by Sec. 12, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7112.

Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.

Department to conduct research and investigations on hazardous wastes and publish studies, 75-10-404.

50-30-105. Publication of information by department. (1) The department may cause to be published from time to time reports summarizing any judgments, research findings, decrees, or court orders which have been rendered under this chapter, including the nature of the charge and the disposition thereof.

(2) The department may also cause to be disseminated information regarding hazardous substances in situations involving imminent danger to health.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the department from collecting, reporting, and illustrating the results of the investigations of the department.

History: En. 69-7113 by Sec. 13, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7113.

Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.

Department to conduct research and investigations on hazardous wastes and publish studies, 75-10-404.

50-30-106. Department to conduct investigations. (1) The department shall conduct investigations of reported accidental injuries, illnesses, and deaths resulting from the use or misuse of all hazardous substances, as defined by 50-30-201(1)(a), intended or suitable for use by the general public.

(2) Investigations shall evaluate the causative hazardous substance and circumstances of the accident for enforcement of this chapter.

(3) If the offending hazardous substance is a pesticide regulated by another agency under the federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act or the Montana Pesticides Act, the investigation shall yield recommendations to the appropriate regulating agency for appropriate action.

History: En. 69-7110 by Sec. 10, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7110(3).

Cross-References

Prohibition against revealing trade secret information gathered in departmental investigations, 50-30-301.
Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.
Department to conduct investigations on hazardous wastes, 75-10-404.
Montana Pesticides Act, Title 80, ch. 8.

50-30-107. Powers and duties of department's agents. (1) For enforcement of this chapter, officers or employees duly designated by the department, upon presenting appropriate credentials to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, are authorized to:

(a) enter at reasonable times a factory, warehouse, or establishment in which hazardous substances are manufactured, processed, packed, or held for introduction into commerce or are held after introduction;

(b) enter a vehicle being used to transport or hold hazardous substances in commerce;

(c) inspect at reasonable times, within reasonable limits, and in a reasonable manner a factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle and all pertinent equipment, finished and unfinished materials, and labeling in the factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle; and

(d) obtain samples of materials or packages or labeling.

(2) If the officer or employee obtains a sample, prior to leaving the premises the officer or employee shall pay or offer to pay the owner, operator, or agent in charge for the sample and give a receipt describing the samples obtained.

History: En. 69-7110 by Sec. 10, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7110(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1835, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Prohibition against revealing trade secret information gathered in departmental investigations, 50-30-301.
Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.

50-30-108. Carriers to permit inspection. (1) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, carriers engaged in commerce and persons receiving hazardous substances in commerce or holding such hazardous substances so received shall, upon the request of an officer or employee duly designated by the department, permit such officer or employee at reasonable times to have access to and to copy all records showing the movement in commerce of any such hazardous substances, the holding thereof during or after such movement, and the quantity, shipper, and consignee thereof.

(2) It is unlawful for any such carrier or person to fail to permit such access to and copying of any record so requested when such request is accompanied by a statement in writing specifying the nature or kind of such hazardous substance to which such request relates, provided that evidence obtained under this section is not used in a criminal prosecution of the person from whom obtained.

(3) Carriers are not subject to the other provisions of this chapter by reason of their receipt, carriage, holding, or delivery of hazardous substances in the usual course of business as carriers.

History: En. 69-7111 by Sec. 11, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7111.

Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.
Department to require recordkeeping by transporters of hazardous wastes, 75-10-405.

Part 2
Hazardous Substances

Part Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.
Montana Pesticides Act, Title 80, ch. 8.

50-30-201. Hazardous substance defined. (1) "Hazardous substance" means:

(a) a substance or mixture of substances which:

(i) is toxic;

(ii) is corrosive;

(iii) is an irritant;

(iv) is a strong sensitizer;

(v) is flammable or combustible; or

(vi) generates pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means if the substance or mixture of substances may cause substantial personal injury or substantial illness during or as a proximate result of any customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including reasonably foreseeable ingestion by children;

(b) substances which the department by rule finds under 50-30-215 meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section;

(c) a radioactive substance if, with respect to the substance as used in a particular class of article or as packaged, the department determines by rule that the substance is sufficiently hazardous to require labeling in accordance with this chapter in order to protect the public health; or

(d) a toy or other article intended for use by children which presents an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard as determined by the department by rule in accordance with 50-30-220.

(2) (a) The term "hazardous substance" does not apply to pesticides subject to the federal Pesticide Environmental Control Act or the Montana Pesticides Act, to foods, drugs, and cosmetics subject to the Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or to substances intended for use as fuels when stored in containers and used in the heating, cooking, or refrigeration system of a house.

(b) The term applies, however, to an article which is not itself a pesticide within the meaning of the federal Pesticide Environmental Control Act or the Montana Pesticide Act but which is a hazardous substance within the meaning of subsection (1) of this section by reason of bearing or containing a pesticide.

(c) The term also applies to pesticides whenever human health is directly affected from the use or misuse of pesticides requiring an accident investigation for the purpose of preparing recommendations to federal or state pesticide control agencies.

(3) The term "hazardous substance" does not include source material, special nuclear material, or byproduct material as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and rules issued pursuant thereto by the atomic energy commission.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(4).

Cross-References

Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Title 50, ch. 31.

Nuclear regulation, Title 50, ch. 79.

50-30-202. Misbranded hazardous substance defined. (1) "Misbranded hazardous substance" means a hazardous substance (including a toy or other article intended for use by children which is a hazardous substance or which bears or contains a hazardous substance in such a manner as to be susceptible of access by a child to whom the toy or other article is entrusted) intended or packaged in a form suitable for use by the public or by children which, except as otherwise provided under 50-30-216 or 50-30-217, fails to bear a label:

(a) which states conspicuously:

(i) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, or seller;

(ii) the common or usual name or the chemical name (if there is not a common or usual name) of the hazardous substance or each component which contributes substantially to its hazard unless the department by rule permits or requires the use of a recognized generic name;

(iii) the signal word "danger" on substances which are extremely flammable, corrosive, or highly toxic;

(iv) the signal word on all other hazardous substances;

(v) an affirmative statement of the principal hazard or hazards, such as:

(A) "flammable";

(B) "combustible";

(C) "vapor harmful";

(D) "causes burns";

(E) "absorbed through skin"; or

(F) similar wording descriptive of the hazard;

(vi) precautionary measures describing the action to be followed or avoided, except when modified by a rule of the department under 50-30-216 or 50-30-217;

(vii) instruction, when necessary or appropriate, for first-aid treatment;

(viii) "poison" for any hazardous substance which is defined as "highly toxic" by 50-30-205; and

(ix) instructions for handling and storage of packages which require special care in handling or storage such as:

(A) "keep out of the reach of children" or its practical equivalent; or

(B) if the article is intended for use by children and is not a banned hazardous substance, adequate directions for the protection of children from the hazard; and

(b) on which a statement required under subsection (1)(a) of this section is located prominently and is in the English language in conspicuous and legible type in contrast by typography, layout, or color with other printed matter on the label.

(2) The reuse of a food, drug, or cosmetic container as a container for a hazardous substance shall be deemed to be an act which results in the hazardous substance being a misbranded hazardous substance. As used in this subsection, the terms "food", "drug", and "cosmetic" shall have the same meanings as in the Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

History: (1)En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 69-7102, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 69-7104 by Sec. 4, Ch. 394, L. 1975; Sec. 69-7104, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(13), 69-7104(part).

Cross-References

Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Title 50, ch. 31.

Agricultural seed labeling, Title 80, ch. 5, part 1.

50-30-203. Banned hazardous substance defined. (1) "Banned hazardous substance" means:

(a) a toy or other article intended for use by children which is a hazardous substance or which bears or contains a hazardous substance in such a manner as to be susceptible of access by a child to whom the toy or other article is entrusted; or

(b) a hazardous substance intended or packaged in a form suitable for use by the general public which the department by rule classifies as a banned hazardous substance on the basis of a finding that, notwithstanding such cautionary labeling as is or may be required under this chapter for that substance, the degree or nature of the hazard involved in the presence or use of the substance by the general public is such that the objective of the protection of the public health and safety can be adequately served only by keeping the substance, when so intended or packaged, out of the channels of commerce.

(2) The department by rule shall exempt from subsection (1)(a) of this section articles such as chemical sets which, by reason of their functional purpose, require the inclusion of the hazardous substance involved or necessarily present an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard and which bear labeling giving adequate directions and warnings for safe use and are intended for use by children who have attained sufficient maturity and may reasonably be expected to read and heed the directions and warnings.

(3) Proceedings for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of rules under subsections (1)(b) and (2) of this section shall be governed by the provisions of 50-30-219 and 50-30-220.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(14).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-30-204. Toxic defined. "Toxic" means a substance, other than a radioactive substance, that has the capacity to produce personal injury or illness to humans through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(5); amd. Sec. 1836, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-30-205. Highly toxic defined. (1) "Highly toxic" means a substance that falls within any of the following categories:

(a) produces death within 14 days in one-half or more of a group of 10 or more laboratory white rats each weighing between 200 and 300 grams at a single dose of 50 milligrams or less per kilogram of body weight when orally administered;

(b) produces death within 14 days in one-half or more of a group of 10 or more laboratory white rats each weighing between 200 and 300 grams when inhaled continuously for a period of 1 hour or less at an atmosphere concentration of 200 parts per million or less by volume of gas or vapor or 2 milligrams per liter or less by volume of mist or dust if that concentration is likely to be encountered by humans when the substance is used in a reasonably foreseeable manner; or

(c) produces death within 14 days in one-half or more of a group of 10 or more rabbits tested in a dosage of 200 milligrams or less per kilogram of body weight when administered by continuous contact with the bare skin for 24 hours or less.

(2) If the department finds that available data on human experience with a substance indicates results different from those obtained on animals in the dosages or concentrations described in subsection (1), the human data must take precedence.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(6); amd. Sec. 1837, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-30-206. Corrosive defined. "Corrosive" means a substance which in contact with living tissue will cause destruction of tissue by chemical action but does not refer to action on inanimate surfaces.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(7).**

50-30-207. Irritant defined. "Irritant" means a substance not corrosive within the meaning of 50-30-206 which on immediate, prolonged, or repeated contact with normal living tissue will induce a local inflammatory reaction.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(8).**

50-30-208. Strong sensitizer defined. "Strong sensitizer" means a substance which will cause on normal living tissue, through an allergic or photodynamic process, a hypersensitivity.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(9).**

50-30-209. Extremely flammable, flammable, and combustible defined. (1) "Extremely flammable" applies to a substance which has a flash point at or below 20 degrees F, as determined by the Tagliabue open cup tester.

(2) "Flammable" applies to a substance which has a flash point above 20 degrees to and including 80 degrees F, as determined by the Tagliabue open cup tester.

(3) "Combustible" applies to a substance which has a flash point above 80 degrees to and including 150 degrees F, as determined by the Tagliabue open cup tester.

(4) The flammability or combustibility of solids and the contents of self-pressurized containers shall be determined by methods found by the department to be generally applicable to the materials or containers, respectively, and established by rules issued by the department, which rules shall also define the terms "flammable", "combustible", and "extremely flammable" in accord with the methods used.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(10).**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-30-210. Radioactive substance defined. "Radioactive substance" means a substance which emits ionizing radiation.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(11).**

Cross-References

Nuclear regulation, Title 50, ch. 79.

50-30-211. Label defined. "Label" means a display of written, printed, or graphic matter upon the immediate container ("immediate container" does not include package liners) of a substance or, in the case of an article which is unpackaged or is not packaged in an immediate container intended or suitable for delivery to the ultimate consumer, a display of such matter directly upon the article involved or upon a tag or other suitable material affixed thereto.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(part (12)).**

Cross-References

Labeling of flour, 30-12-302.
Agricultural seed labeling, Title 80, ch. 5, part 1.
Montana quality label, Title 81, ch. 8, part 7.

50-30-212. Electrical hazards. An article may be determined to present an electrical hazard if, in normal use or when subjected to reasonably foreseeable damage or abuse, its design or manufacture may cause personal injury or illness by electric shock.

History: **En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(15).**

50-30-213. Mechanical hazards. An article may be determined to present a mechanical hazard if, in normal use or when subjected to reasonably foreseeable damage or abuse, its design or manufacture presents an unreasonable risk of personal injury or illness:

(1) from fracture, fragmentation, or disassembly of the article;
(2) from propulsion of the article (or a part or accessory thereof);
(3) from points or other protrusions, surfaces, edges, openings, or closures;
(4) from moving parts;
(5) from lack or insufficiency of controls to reduce or stop motion;
(6) as a result of self-adhering characteristics of the article;
(7) because the article (or a part or accessory thereof) may be aspirated or ingested;
(8) because of instability; or
(9) because of any other aspect of the article's design or manufacture.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(16).

50-30-214. Thermal hazards. An article may be determined to present a thermal hazard if, in normal use or when subjected to reasonably foreseeable damage or abuse, its design or manufacture presents an unreasonable risk of personal injury or illness because of heat as from heated parts, substances, or surfaces.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(17).

50-30-215. Declaration of hazardous substance. When in the judgment of the department such action will promote the objectives of this chapter by avoiding or resolving uncertainty as to its application, the department may by rule declare to be a hazardous substance a substance or mixture of substances which the department finds meets the requirements of 50-30-201(1)(a).

History: En. 69-7103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7103(1).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-30-216. Additional labeling requirements. If the department finds that the requirements of 50-30-202(1)(a) are not adequate for the protection of the public health and safety in view of the special hazard presented by a hazardous substance, the department may by rule establish such reasonable variations or additional labeling requirements as are necessary for the protection of the public health and safety, and a hazardous substance intended or packaged in a form suitable for use by the general public or by children which fails to bear a label in accordance with the rules is a misbranded hazardous substance.

History: En. 69-7103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7103(2).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Agricultural seed labeling, Title 80, ch. 5, part 1.

50-30-217. Exemption from labeling requirements. If the department finds that because of the size of the package involved, because of the minor hazard presented by the substance contained therein, or for other good and sufficient reasons full compliance with the labeling requirements otherwise applicable under this chapter is impracticable or is not necessary for the adequate protection of the public health and safety, the department shall adopt rules exempting the substance from these requirements to the extent of being consistent with adequate protection of the public health and safety.

History: En. 69-7103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7103(3).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-30-218. When labeling requirement complied with. A requirement made by or under authority of this chapter that a word, statement, or other information appear on the label shall not be considered to be complied with unless the word, statement, or other information also appears:

(1) on the outside container or wrapper, if any, unless it is easily legible through the outside container or wrapper; and

(2) on all accompanying literature where there are directions for use, written or otherwise.

History: En. 69-7102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7102(part (12)).

50-30-219. Ban of hazardous substance authorized. If the department finds that the hazard of an article subject to this chapter is such that labeling adequate to protect the public health and safety cannot be devised or the article presents an imminent danger to the public health and safety, the department may declare the article a banned hazardous substance and require its removal from commerce.

History: En. 69-7103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7103(4).

Cross-References

Banned hazardous substance defined, 50-30-203.

50-30-220. Toys and other children's articles. (1) A determination by the department that a toy or other article intended for use by children presents an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard shall be made by rule in accordance with this chapter.

(2) If, before or during a proceeding under subsection (1) of this section, the department finds that because of an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard distribution of a toy or other article involved presents an imminent hazard to the public health and the department gives notice of the finding, the toy or other article is a banned hazardous substance for purposes of this chapter until the proceeding has been completed. If not yet initiated when the notice is given, the proceeding shall be initiated as promptly as possible.

(3) (a) In the case of a toy or other article intended for use by children which is determined by the department to present an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard, a person who will be adversely affected by the determination may, at any time before the 60th day after the rule making the determination is issued by the department, file a petition with the court for a judicial review of the determination. A copy of the petition shall be immediately transmitted by the clerk of the court to the department. The department shall file in the court the record of the proceedings on which the department based its determination.

(b) If the petitioner applies to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence and shows to the satisfaction of the court that the additional evidence is material and that there was no opportunity to adduce the evidence in the proceeding before the department, the court may order the additional evidence (and evidence in rebuttal thereof) to be taken before the department in a hearing or in another manner and upon other terms and conditions as the court considers proper. The department may modify its findings as to the facts or make new findings by reason of the additional evidence so taken, and it shall file the modified or new findings and its recommendation, if any, for the modification or setting aside of its original determination with the return of the additional evidence.

(c) Upon the filing of the petition under subsection (3) of this section, the court has jurisdiction to review the determination of the department. If the court ordered additional evidence to be taken under subsection (3)(b) of this section, the court shall also review the department's determination to determine if, on the basis of the entire record before the court under subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) of this section, it is supported by substantial evidence. If the court finds the determination is not so supported, the court may set it aside. With respect to a determination reviewed under subsection (3) of this section, the court may grant appropriate relief pending conclusion of the review proceedings.

History: En. 69-7103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7103(5).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Electrical hazard, 50-30-212.
Mechanical hazard, 50-30-213.
Thermal hazard, 50-30-214.

Part 3
Prohibited Acts, Penalties, and Remedies

50-30-301. Prohibited acts. The following acts and causing the following acts are prohibited:

(1) the introduction or delivery for introduction into commerce of any misbranded hazardous substance or banned hazardous substance;

(2) the alteration, mutilation, destruction, obliteration, or removal of the whole or any part of the label of or the doing of any other act with respect to a hazardous substance if the act

is done while the substance is in commerce or while the substance is held for sale, whether or not the first sale, after shipment in commerce and results in the hazardous substance being a misbranded hazardous substance or a banned hazardous substance;

(3) the receipt in commerce of any misbranded hazardous substance or banned hazardous substance and the delivery or proffered delivery of the substance for pay or otherwise;

(4) the giving of a guarantee or undertaking referred to in 50-30-305(2) that is false, except by a person who relies upon a guarantee or undertaking to the same effect signed by and containing the name and address of the person residing in the United States from whom the person received in good faith the hazardous substance;

(5) the failure to permit entry or inspection as authorized by 50-30-107(1) or to permit access to any copying of any record as authorized by 50-30-108;

(6) the introduction or delivery for introduction into commerce or the receipt in commerce and subsequent delivery or proffered delivery for pay or otherwise of a hazardous substance in a reused food, drug, or cosmetic container or in a container that, though not a reused container, is identifiable as a food, drug, or cosmetic container by its labeling or by other identification;

(7) the use by any person to the person's own advantage or revealing other than to the department or officers or employees of the agency or to the courts when relevant in any judicial proceeding under this chapter of any information acquired under authority of 50-30-106 and 50-30-107 concerning any method or process that as a trade secret is entitled to protection.

History: En. 69-7104 by Sec. 4, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7104(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1838, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Actual and constructive fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Misbranded hazardous substance defined, 50-30-202.
Banned hazardous substance defined, 50-30-203.

50-30-302. Notice and hearing required prior to prosecution. Before a violation of this chapter is reported to a county attorney for the institution of a criminal proceeding, the person against whom the proceeding is contemplated must be given appropriate notice and an opportunity to present the person's views before the department, either orally or in writing and either in person or by attorney, with regard to the contemplated proceeding.

History: En. 69-7108 by Sec. 8, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7108(part); amd. Sec. 1839, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Office of County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.

50-30-303. Department and county attorney to prosecute violations. It is the duty of the department or the county attorney to whom the department reports a violation of this chapter to cause appropriate proceedings to be instituted in the proper courts without delay and to be prosecuted in the manner required by law.

History: En. 69-7108 by Sec. 8, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7108(part).

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-30-304. Penalty. A person who violates the provisions of 50-30-301 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined no more than $500 or be imprisoned for any term not to exceed 90 days, or both. For offenses committed with intent to defraud or mislead or for second and subsequent offenses, the penalty shall be imprisonment for any term not to exceed 1 year or a fine of no more than $3,000, or both.

History: En. 69-7105 by Sec. 5, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7105(1).

Cross-References

Liability for damages for deceit, 27-1-712.

50-30-305. Exceptions to penalty. A person is not subject to the penalties of 50-30-304:

(1) for having violated 50-30-301(3) if the receipt, delivery, or proffered delivery of the hazardous substance was made in good faith unless the person refuses to furnish on request of an officer or employee duly designated by the department the name and address of the person from whom the person purchased or received the hazardous substance and copies of all documents pertaining to the delivery of the hazardous substance to the person; or

(2) for having violated 50-30-301(1) if the person establishes a guarantee or undertaking signed by and containing the name and address of the person residing in the United States from whom the person received in good faith the hazardous substance to the effect that the hazardous substance is not a misbranded or banned hazardous substance within the meaning of those terms in this chapter.

History: **En. 69-7105 by Sec. 5, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7105(2); amd. Sec. 1840, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Misbranded hazardous substance defined, 50-30-202.
Banned hazardous substance defined, 50-30-203.

50-30-306. Injunction authorized. In addition to the remedies hereinafter provided, the department is authorized to apply to court for and such court shall have jurisdiction upon hearing and for cause shown to grant a temporary or permanent injunction restraining any person from violating any provision of 50-30-301, irrespective of whether or not there exists an adequate remedy at law.

History: **En. 69-7106 by Sec. 6, Ch. 394, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7106.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-30-307. Detainer of misbranded or banned hazardous substance. (1) If a duly authorized agent of the department finds or has probable cause to believe that a hazardous substance is misbranded or is a banned hazardous substance within the meaning of this chapter, the agent shall affix to the article a tag or other appropriate marking giving notice that the article is or is suspected of being misbranded or is a banned hazardous substance and has been detained or embargoed and warning all persons not to remove or dispose of the article by sale or otherwise until permission for removal or disposal is given by the agent or the court. It is unlawful for a person to remove or dispose of a detained or embargoed article by sale or otherwise without permission.

(2) If an article detained or embargoed under subsection (1) is found by the agent to be misbranded or a banned hazardous substance, the agent shall petition the judge of the city, justice's, or district court in whose jurisdiction the article is detained or embargoed for an order of condemnation of the article. If the agent finds that an article detained or embargoed is not misbranded or a banned hazardous substance, the agent shall remove the tag or other marking.

(3) (a) If the court finds that a detained or embargoed article is misbranded or a banned hazardous substance, the article must, after entry of the decree, be destroyed at the expense of the claimant of the article under supervision of the agent and all court costs and fees and storage and other proper expenses are to be taxed against the claimant of the article or the claimant's agent.

(b) If the misbranding can be corrected by proper labeling of the article, the court, after entry of the decree and after the costs, fees, and expenses have been paid and a good and sufficient bond, conditioned that the article will be properly labeled, has been executed, may by order direct that the article be delivered to the claimant of the article for the labeling under the supervision of an agent of the department. The expense of the supervision must be paid by the claimant. The article must be returned to the claimant on the representation to the court by the department that the article is no longer in violation of this chapter and that the expenses of the supervision have been paid.

History: **En. 69-7107 by Sec. 7, Ch. 394, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7107; amd. Sec. 1841, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.
Justices' Courts jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 10, part 3.
City Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 11, part 1.

CHAPTER 31
MONTANA FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

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Chapter Cross-References

Control of food and other commodities during emergency, 10-3-505.

Warranty provisions under Uniform Commercial Code, 30-2-312 through 30-2-318.

Weights, measures, standards, and labeling, Title 30, ch. 12.

Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Title 30, ch. 14.

Regulation of standards and sale of grain, seed, commercial feeds, and fertilizer — regulation of produce — inspection, grading, and packing of apples, Title 80, ch. 3 through 5, 9, 10.

Montana quality labels — regulation of poultry, eggs, and egg dealers — regulation of manufactured dairy products, Title 81, ch. 8, 20, 22.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-31-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-701.

50-31-102. Applicability of chapter. The provisions of this chapter regarding the selling of food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics shall be considered to include the manufacture, production, processing, packing, exposure, offer, possession, and holding of these articles for sale; the sale, dispensing, and giving of these articles; and the supplying or applying of these articles in the conduct of a food, drug, or cosmetic establishment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(q).

50-31-103. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advertisement" means representations disseminated in any manner or by any means, other than by labeling, for the purpose of inducing or that are likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the purchase of food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics.

(2) "Beef patty mix" means "hamburger" or "ground beef" to which have been added binders or extenders as those terms are understood by general custom and usage in the food industry.

(3) "Bottled water" means water that is intended for human consumption and that is sealed in bottles or other containers with no added ingredients, except that bottled water may optionally contain safe and suitable antimicrobial agents.

(4) "Cell-cultured edible product" means the concept of meat, including but not limited to muscle cells, fat cells, connective tissue, blood, and other components produced via cell culture, rather than from a whole slaughtered animal. A cell-cultured edible product derived from meat muscle cells, fat cells, connective tissue, blood, or other meat components must contain labeling indicating it is derived from those cells, tissues, blood, or components.

(5) "Color" includes black, white, and intermediate grays.

(6) (a) "Color additive" means a material that:

(i) is a dye, pigment, or other substance made by a process of synthesis or similar artifice or that is extracted, isolated, or otherwise derived, with or without intermediate or final change of identity, from a vegetable, animal, mineral, or other source; or

(ii) when added or applied to a food, drug, or cosmetic or to the human body is capable (alone or through reaction with another substance) of imparting color to the human body.

(b) The term does not include material that has been or is exempted under the federal act.

(7) (a) "Consumer commodity", except as otherwise specifically provided by this subsection, means any food, drug, device, or cosmetic as those terms are defined by this chapter or by the federal act and regulations pursuant to the federal act.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) any tobacco or tobacco product;

(ii) a commodity subject to packaging or labeling requirements imposed under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136, et seq.) or the provisions of the eighth paragraph under the heading "Bureau of Animal Industry" of the act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 832-833; 21 U.S.C. 151 through 157), commonly known as the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act;

(iii) a drug subject to 50-31-306(1)(m) or 50-31-307(2)(c) or section 503(b)(1) or 506 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1) and 356);

(iv) a beverage subject to or complying with packaging or labeling requirements imposed under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201, et seq.); or

(v) a commodity subject to the Federal Seed Act (7 U.S.C. 1551 through 1610).

(8) "Contaminated with filth" applies to a food, drug, device, or cosmetic not securely protected from dust, dirt, and, as far as may be necessary by all reasonable means, foreign, or injurious contaminations.

(9) (a) "Cosmetic" means:

(i) articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance; and

(ii) articles intended for use as a component of these articles.

(b) The term does not include soap.

(10) "Counterfeit drug" means a drug, drug container, or drug label that, without authorization, bears the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device or any likeness of an identifying mark, imprint, or device of a drug manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed the drug and that falsely purports or is represented to be the product of or to have been packed or distributed by the other drug manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.

(11) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(12) "Device" (except when used in 50-31-107(2), 50-31-203(6), 50-31-306(1)(c) and (1)(q), 50-31-402(3), and 50-31-501(10)) means instruments, apparatus, and contrivances, including their components, parts, and accessories, intended:

(a) for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or other animals; or

(b) to affect the structure or function of the body of humans or other animals.

(13) "Dietary supplement" means a product, other than a tobacco product, that is intended to supplement the diet and that:

(a) is advertised only as a food supplement;

(b) bears or contains one or more of the following ingredients:

(i) a vitamin;

(ii) a mineral;

(iii) an herb or other botanical substance;

(iv) an amino acid;

(v) a dietary substance used to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredients described in subsections (13)(b)(i) through (13)(b)(iv);

(c) conforms to any additional provisions for the definition of dietary supplement under 21 U.S.C. 321.

(14) "Drug" means:

(a) articles recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official National Formulary, or a supplement to either of these;

(b) articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or other animals;

(c) articles (other than food) intended to affect the structure or function of the body of humans or other animals;

(d) articles intended for use as components of any article specified in subsection (14)(a), (14)(b), or (14)(c) but does not include devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

(15) "Federal act" means the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended (21 U.S.C. 301, et seq.).

(16) "Food" means:

(a) articles used for food or drink for humans or other animals;

(b) chewing gum;

(c) articles used for components of these articles; and

(d) dietary supplements.

(17) (a) "Food additive" means a substance, the intended use of which results or may be reasonably expected to result, directly or indirectly, in its becoming a component or otherwise affecting the characteristics of food. The term includes a substance intended for use in producing, manufacturing, packing, processing, preparing, treating, packaging, transporting, or holding food and a source of radiation intended for this use if the substance is not generally recognized among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate its safety as having been adequately shown through scientific procedures to be safe under the conditions of its intended use. Alternatively, for a substance used in a food prior to January 1, 1958, the determination of safety under the conditions of the substance's intended use may be through either scientific procedures or experience based on common use in food.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a pesticide chemical in or on a raw agricultural commodity;

(ii) a pesticide chemical to the extent that the pesticide chemical is intended for use or is used in the production, storage, or transportation of a raw agricultural commodity;

(iii) a color additive;

(iv) a substance used in accordance with a sanction or approval granted prior to the enactment of the Food Additives Amendment of 1958, pursuant to the federal act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451, et seq.), or the Meat Inspection Act of March 4, 1907 (34 Stat. 1260), as amended and extended (21 U.S.C. 603, et seq.).

(18) "Food service establishment" means a retail food establishment defined in 50-50-102 and any facility operated by a governmental entity where food is served.

(19) "Hamburger" or "ground beef" means ground fresh or frozen beef or a combination of both fresh and frozen beef, with or without the addition of suet, to which no water, binders, or extenders are added. The term includes only products entirely derived from the edible flesh of livestock or a livestock product, as meat is defined in 81-9-217. The term does not include cell-cultured edible products. There are four grades of hamburger or ground beef:

(a) "regular hamburger" or "regular ground beef" may have:

(i) a fat content no greater than the federal standard set forth in 9 CFR 319.15; and

(ii) a lean content of no less than 70%;

(b) "lean hamburger" or "lean ground beef" may have:

(i) a fat content no greater than 22%; and

(ii) a lean content of no less than 78%;

(c) "extra lean hamburger" or "extra lean ground beef" may have:

(i) a fat content no greater than 16%; and

(ii) a lean content of no less than 84%; and

(d) "super lean hamburger" or "super lean ground beef" may have:

(i) a fat content no greater than 12%; and

(ii) a lean content of no less than 88%.

(20) "Honey" means the nectar and saccharine plant exudations, gathered, modified, and stored in the comb by honey bees, that are levorotatory and that contain not more than 25% of water, not more than 0.25% of ash, and not more than 8% sucrose.

(21) "Label" means a display of written, printed, or graphic matter on the immediate container of an article. "Immediate container" does not include package liners.

(22) "Labeling" means labels and other written, printed, or graphic matter:

(a) on an article or its containers or wrappers;

(b) accompanying the article.

(23) "Menu" means a list presented to the patron that states the food items for sale in a food service establishment.

(24) "New drug" means a drug, the composition of which:

(a) is not generally recognized among experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs as safe and effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the new drug's labeling; or

(b) has become recognized as a result of investigations to determine the new drug's safety and effectiveness for use under the conditions prescribed but has not, other than in the investigations, been used to a material extent or for a material time under the conditions prescribed.

(25) "Official compendium" means the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official National Formulary, or a supplement to either of these.

(26) (a) "Package" means a container or wrapping in which a consumer commodity is enclosed for use in the delivery or display of that consumer commodity to retail purchasers.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) shipping containers or wrappings used solely for the transportation of a consumer commodity in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, packers, or processors or to wholesale or retail distributors;

(ii) shipping containers or outer wrappings used by retailers to ship or deliver a commodity to retail customers if the containers and wrappings bear no printed matter pertaining to a particular commodity.

(27) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, and association.

(28) "Pesticide chemical" means a substance that alone, in chemical combination, or in formulation with one or more other substances is an "economic poison" under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136, et seq.), as amended, and that is used in the production, storage, or transportation of raw agricultural commodities.

(29) "Placard" means a nonpermanent sign used to display or describe food items for sale in a food service establishment or retail meat establishment.

(30) "Principal display panel" means that part of a label that is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under normal and customary conditions of display for retail sale.

(31) "Processing" means cooking, baking, heating, drying, mixing, grinding, churning, separating, extracting, cutting, freezing, or otherwise manufacturing a food or changing the physical characteristics of a food and the enclosure of the food in a package.

(32) "Raw agricultural commodity" has the meaning as provided in 50-50-102.

(33) "Retail meat establishment" means a commercial establishment at which meat or meat products are displayed for sale or provision to the public, with or without charge.

(34) "Synthetically compounded" means a product formulated by a process that chemically changes a material or substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources, except for microbiological processes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 605, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 472, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 307, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 210, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 172, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 2019.

50-31-104. Department authorized to adopt rules. (1) The department may adopt rules for the efficient enforcement of this chapter. The department may adopt by reference the regulations adopted by the food and drug administration under the federal act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (15 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.).

(2) No hearing is required for adoption by reference of those regulations adopted under the federal act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (15 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.).

(3) The department may not establish rules related to enforcement of this chapter for homemade food or a homemade food product sold pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-721; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-31-105. Publication of information by department. (1) The department may cause to be published from time to time reports summarizing all judgments, decrees, and court orders which have been rendered under this chapter, including the nature of the charge and the disposition thereof.

(2) The department may also cause to be disseminated such information regarding food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics as the department deems necessary in the interest of public health and the protection of the consumer against fraud. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the department from collecting, reporting, and illustrating the results of the investigations of the department.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-723.

50-31-106. Inspections and taking of samples authorized. (1) The department or its authorized agents have free access at all reasonable hours to any factory, warehouse, or establishment in which foods, drugs, devices, or cosmetics are manufactured, processed, packed, or held for introduction into commerce or to any vehicle being used to transport or hold the foods, drugs, devices, or cosmetics in commerce, for the purpose of:

(a) inspecting the factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle to determine if any of the provisions of this chapter are being violated; and

(b) securing samples or specimens of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic after paying or offering to pay for the sample.

(2) The department shall make or cause to be made examinations of samples secured under the provisions of this section to determine whether or not any provision of this chapter is being violated.

(3) Pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, part 2, the department may not conduct inspections of or take samples from producers as defined in 50-49-202.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-722; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Refusal to allow entry or inspection prohibited, 50-31-501.

50-31-107. False or misleading representations. (1) An advertisement of a food, drug, device, or cosmetic shall be deemed to be false if it is false or misleading in any particular.

(2) If an article is alleged to be misbranded because the labeling is misleading or if an advertisement is alleged to be false because it is misleading, then in determining whether the labeling or advertisement is misleading there shall be taken into account not only representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound, or a combination of these but also the extent to which the labeling or advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the light of the representations or material with respect to consequences which may result from the use of the article to which the labeling or advertisement relates under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling or advertisement or under conditions of use as are customary or usual.

History: (1)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 27-720, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 27-702, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(l), 27-720(a).

Cross-References

Freedom of speech and expression, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Specific drug advertisements considered false, 50-31-303.

50-31-108. Regulations concerning additives. (1) The department, upon its own motion or upon the petition of any interested party requesting that a rule be established, whenever public health or other considerations in the state require, is authorized to adopt, amend, or repeal rules, whether or not in accordance with regulations promulgated under the federal act, prescribing tolerances for any added poisonous or deleterious substances for food additives, for pesticide chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities, or for color additives, including but not limited to zero tolerances and exemptions from tolerances in the case of pesticide chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities, and prescribing the conditions under which a food additive or a color additive may be safely used and exemptions when the food additive or color additive is to be used solely for investigational or experimental purposes.

(2) A petitioner shall establish by data submitted to the department that a necessity exists for the rule and that its effect will not be detrimental to the public health. If the data furnished by the petitioner is not sufficient to allow the department to determine whether the regulation should be promulgated, the department may require additional data to be submitted and failure to comply with the request is sufficient grounds to deny the request.

(3) In adopting, amending, or repealing rules relating to the substances, the department shall consider among other relevant factors the following, which the petitioner, if any, shall furnish:

(a) the name and all pertinent information concerning the substance, including, when available:

(i) its chemical identity and composition;

(ii) a statement of the conditions of the proposed use, including directions, recommendations, and suggestions and including specimens of proposed labeling; and

(iii) all relevant data bearing on the physical or other technical effect and the quantity required to produce the effect;

(b) the probable composition of or other relevant exposure from the article and of any substance formed in or on a food, drug, or cosmetic resulting from the use of the substance;

(c) the probable consumption of the substance in the diet of humans and animals taking into account any chemically or pharmacologically related substance in the diet;

(d) safety factors that, in the opinion of experts qualified by scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety of the substances for the use or uses for which they are proposed to be used, are generally recognized as appropriate for the use of animal experimentation data;

(e) the availability of any needed practicable methods of analysis for determining the identity and quantity of:

(i) the substance in or on an article;

(ii) any substance formed in or on the article because of the use of the substance; and

(iii) the pure substance and all intermediates and impurities; and

(f) facts supporting a contention that the proposed use of the substance will serve a useful purpose.

(4) The department may not establish rules related to food additives under this section for homemade food or a homemade food product sold pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-713(b); amd. Sec. 1842, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Misbranding drugs or devices, 50-31-306.

50-31-109. Use of additives. Any added poisonous or deleterious substance, any food additive, any pesticide chemical in or on a raw agricultural commodity, or any color additive shall, with respect to any particular use or intended use, be deemed unsafe for the purpose of application of 50-31-202(2) with respect to any food, 50-31-305(1) through (5) with respect to any drug or device, or 50-31-401(1) with respect to any cosmetic unless there is in effect a regulation pursuant to 50-31-108 limiting the quantity of such substance and the use or intended use of such substance conforms to the terms prescribed by such regulation. While such regulation relating to such substance is in effect, a food, drug, or cosmetic shall not by reason of bearing or containing such substance in accordance with the regulation be considered adulterated within the meaning of 50-31-202(1), 50-31-305(1) through (5), or 50-31-401(1).

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-713(a).

50-31-110. Certain agricultural chemicals not color additives. Subsections (5) and (6) of 50-31-103 do not apply to a pesticide chemical, soil or plant nutrient, or other agricultural chemical that affects the color of produce of the soil, whether before or after harvest, solely because of its effect in aiding, retarding, or otherwise affecting, directly or indirectly, the growth or other natural physiological process of produce of the soil.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(u)(3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 361, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 169, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 186, L. 2019.

50-31-111. When labeling requirement complied with. A requirement made by or under authority of this chapter that a word, statement, or other information shall appear on the label is not complied with unless the word, statement, or other information also appears on the outside container or wrapper, if any there be, of the retail package of the article or is easily legible through the outside container or wrapper.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(i)(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Agricultural seed labeling, Title 80, ch. 5, part 1.

Part 2
Food and Bottled Water

Part Cross-References

Municipal power to inspect foodstuffs and regulate soft drink establishments, 7-21-4201, 7-21-4202.
Control of food and other commodities during emergency, 10-3-505.
Immunity of persons donating food for free distribution, 27-1-716.
Supervision and regulation of milk industry, Title 81, ch. 23, parts 1 through 4.

50-31-201. Department authorized to adopt food standards. (1) Whenever in the judgment of the department such action will promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers, the department shall adopt regulations fixing and establishing for any food or class of food a reasonable definition and standard of identity, standard of quality, and/or fill of container.

(2) In prescribing a definition and standard of identity for any food or class of food in which optional ingredients are permitted, the department shall, for the purpose of promoting honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers, designate the optional ingredients which must be named on the label.

(3) The definitions and standards must conform as much as practicable to the definitions and standards promulgated under authority of the federal act, or the department may adopt by reference the definitions and standards promulgated under authority of the federal act.

(4) The department may not adopt food standards or regulations under this section for homemade food or a homemade food product sold pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-709; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-31-202. When food adulterated. A food is considered to be adulterated if:

(1) it bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance that may render it injurious to health. If the poisonous or deleterious substance is not an added substance, the food may not be considered adulterated under this subsection if the quantity of the substance in that food does not ordinarily render it injurious to health.

(2) it bears or contains any added poisonous or added deleterious substance, other than one that is:

(a) a pesticide chemical in or on a raw agricultural commodity;

(b) a food additive; or

(c) a color additive that is unsafe within the meaning of 50-31-109;

(3) it is a raw agricultural commodity and it bears or contains a pesticide chemical that is unsafe within the meaning of section 408(a) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 346a(a)), as amended;

(4) it is or it bears or contains any food additive that is unsafe within the meaning of section 409 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 348) as amended. However, if a pesticide chemical has been used in or on a raw agricultural commodity in conformity with an exemption granted or tolerance prescribed under section 408 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 346) and the raw agricultural commodity has been subjected to processing, such as canning, cooking, freezing, dehydrating, or milling, the residue of the pesticide chemical remaining in or on the processed food may, notwithstanding the provisions of 50-31-108, 50-31-109, and subsection (4) of this section, not be determined unsafe if the residue in or on the raw agricultural commodity has been removed to the extent possible in good manufacturing practice and the concentration of the residue in the processed food when ready to eat is not greater than the tolerance prescribed for the raw agricultural commodity.

(5) it consists in whole or in part of a diseased, contaminated, filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or if it is otherwise unfit for food;

(6) it has been produced, prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions under which it may have become contaminated with filth or under which it may have been rendered diseased, unwholesome, or injurious to health;

(7) it is the product of a diseased animal or an animal that has died otherwise than by slaughter or that has been fed upon the uncooked offal from a slaughterhouse;

(8) its container is composed in whole or in part of any poisonous or deleterious substance that may render the contents injurious to health;

(9) any valuable constituent has been in whole or in part omitted or abstracted from the food;

(10) any substance has been substituted wholly or in part for the food;

(11) damage or inferiority has been concealed in any manner;

(12) any substance has been added to the food or mixed or packed with the food so as to increase its bulk or weight, reduce its quality or strength, or make it appear better or of greater value than it is;

(13) it is confectionery and it bears or contains any alcohol or nonnutritive article or substance except harmless coloring, harmless flavoring, harmless resinous glaze not in excess of 0.4%, harmless natural wax not in excess of 0.4%, or harmless natural gum and pectin. However, this paragraph does not apply to any confectionery by reason of its containing less than 0.5% by volume of alcohol derived solely from the use of flavoring extracts or to any chewing gum by reason of its containing harmless nonnutritive masticatory substances.

(14) it is or bears or contains any color additive that is unsafe within the meaning of the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-710; amd. Sec. 211, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Deceptive business practices, 45-6-318.

Montana Pesticides Act, Title 80, ch. 8.

50-31-203. When food misbranded. A food is considered to be misbranded if:

(1) its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;

(2) it is offered for sale under the name of another food;

(3) it is an imitation of another food for which a definition and standard of identity has been prescribed by regulations as provided by 50-31-201 or if it is an imitation of another food that is not subject to subsection (7) of this section, unless its label bears in type of uniform size and prominence the word imitation and, immediately after that word, the name of the food imitated;

(4) its container is made, formed, or filled in a manner that is misleading;

(5) it is in package form, unless it bears a label containing:

(a) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor;

(b) an accurate statement of the quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count; provided that reasonable variations must be permitted and exemptions as to small packages must be established by regulations prescribed by the department;

(6) any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this chapter to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed on the label or labeling with such conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the labeling) and in terms that render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;

(7) it purports to be or is represented as a food for which a definition and standard of identity have been prescribed by regulations as provided by 50-31-201, unless:

(a) it conforms to that definition and standard; and

(b) its label bears the name of the food specified in the definition and standard and, as may be required by the regulations, the common names of optional ingredients (other than spices, flavoring, and coloring) present in the food;

(8) it purports to be or is represented as:

(a) a food for which a standard of quality has been prescribed by regulations as provided by 50-31-201 and its quality falls below that standard, unless its label bears, in a manner and form that the regulations specify, a statement that it falls below that standard; or

(b) a food for which a standard or standards of fill of container have been prescribed by regulation as provided by 50-31-201 and it falls below the standard of fill of container applicable, unless its label bears, in a manner and form that the regulations specify, a statement that it falls below that standard;

(9) it is not subject to the provisions of subsection (7) unless it bears labeling clearly giving:

(a) the common or usual name of the food, if there is one; and

(b) in case it is fabricated from two or more ingredients, the common or usual name of each ingredient; except that spices, flavorings, and colorings, other than those sold as such, may be designated as spices, flavorings, and colorings without naming each. To the extent that compliance with the requirements of this subsection (9)(b) is impractical or results in deception or unfair competition, exemptions must be established by regulations promulgated by the department. The requirements of this subsection (9)(b) do not apply to food products that are packaged at the direction of purchasers at retail at the time of sale, the ingredients of which are disclosed to the purchasers by other means in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department.

(10) it purports to be or is represented for special dietary uses, unless its label bears information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties that the department determines to be and by regulations prescribes as necessary in order to fully inform purchasers as to its value for special dietary uses;

(11) it bears or contains any artificial flavoring, artificial coloring, or chemical preservative unless it bears labeling stating that fact. To the extent that compliance with the requirements of this subsection is impracticable, exemptions must be established by regulations promulgated by the department. Butter, cheese, ice cream, and frozen desserts as described in 81-22-101 are exempt from label statements for artificial flavoring and artificial coloring.

(12) it is a product intended as an ingredient of another food and when used according to the directions of the purveyor will result in the final food product being adulterated or misbranded;

(13) it is a color additive, unless its packaging and labeling are in conformity with packaging and labeling requirements applicable to that color additive prescribed under the provisions of the federal act;

(14) it is a cell-cultured edible product labeled as meat but does not meet the definition of meat in 81-9-217. A cell-cultured edible product derived from meat muscle cells, fat cells, connective tissue, blood, or other meat components is not considered to be misbranded if it is labeled in accordance with 50-31-103 to indicate it is derived from those cells, tissues, blood, or components.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-711; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 605, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 212, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 172, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 186, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Actual and constructive fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Deceptive business practices, 45-6-318.

50-31-204. Labeling requirements for products in semblance of honey or containing honey. (1) Any product sold in semblance of honey which is a blend or mixture of honey and other ingredients must be labeled in such a way that the name of the main ingredient added to the honey will be printed so that it will be as prominent and conspicuous as the word "honey". The word "imitation" may not be used in the name of a product which is in semblance of honey whether or not it contains any honey.

(2) The label for a product which is not in semblance of honey and which contains honey may include the word "honey" in the name of the product. The relative position of the word "honey" in the product name and in the list of ingredients, when required, shall be determined by its prominence as an ingredient in the product.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 403, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-703(part).

Cross-References

Deceptive business practices, 45-6-318.
Labeling violations penalties, 50-31-506.
Injunctive remedies, 50-31-508.

50-31-205. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-712(a).

50-31-206. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-712(c).

50-31-207. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-712(b).

50-31-208. Sale of hamburger and beef patty mix. (1) A food service establishment or retail meat establishment may not use the terms "hamburger", "burger", or other similar term in any advertisement or menu to refer to any beef patty mix. A food service establishment or retail meat establishment selling or serving beef patty mix may refer to the product as "beef patty mix" or by any other term that accurately informs the customer of the nature of the food product being sold or served.

(2) If beef patty mix is sold or served in a food service establishment or retail meat establishment, a list of ingredients must appear on the menu or label or, if there is not a menu or label, on a placard as follows:

(a) The term "beef patty mix" or any other term that accurately informs the customer of the nature of the food product and its ingredients must be included.

(b) The ingredients must be listed in descending order of predominance by weight.

(c) The lettering on the placard must be at least 1 inch in height (72-point letters), in boldface, and in colors that contrast with the placard.

(d) The placard must be posted in a permanent place, conspicuous to the customer, in each room or area where food is served or sold at retail.

(3) If hamburger or ground beef is sold in a retail meat establishment, the grade of hamburger or ground beef, as enumerated in 50-31-103(19), and the maximum fat and minimum lean content must appear on each displayed package or, if the product is not packaged for display, on a placard. If a placard is used, it must satisfy the requirements of subsections (2)(c) and (2)(d). The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the service of prepared hamburger or ground beef at a food service establishment.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 169, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 133, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 373, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 186, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Penalties for violation, 50-31-506.
Injunctive remedies, 50-31-508.

50-31-209 through 50-31-220 reserved.

50-31-221. Repealed. Secs. 5, 7(2), Ch. 172, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 605, L. 1985.

50-31-222. Repealed. Secs. 5, 7(2), Ch. 172, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 605, L. 1985.

50-31-223. Repealed. Secs. 5, 7(2), Ch. 172, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 605, L. 1985.

50-31-224 through 50-31-230 reserved.

50-31-231. Repealed. Secs. 5, 7(2), Ch. 172, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 605, L. 1985.

50-31-232 through 50-31-235 reserved.

50-31-236. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 169, L. 1989.

50-31-237. Health claims for bottled water. Claims of medicinal or health-giving properties on labels or in advertisements for bottled water are prohibited.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 169, L. 1989.

50-31-238. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 169, L. 1989.

Part 3
Drugs and Devices

Part Cross-References

Pharmacy regulation, Title 37, ch. 7.
Dangerous drugs, Title 45, ch. 9.
Model Drug Paraphernalia Act, Title 45, ch. 10, part 1.
Controlled substances, Title 50, ch. 32.

50-31-301. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Antibiotic drug" means any drug intended for use by humans containing any quantity of any chemical substance that is produced by a microorganism and that has the capacity to inhibit or destroy microorganisms in dilute solution (including the chemically synthesized equivalent of such a substance).

(2) "Code imprint" means a series of letters or numbers assigned by the manufacturer or distributor to a specific drug, marks or monograms unique to the manufacturer or distributor of the drug, or both.

(3) "Distributor" means a person who distributes for resale a drug in solid dosage form under the person's own label whether or not the person is the manufacturer of the drug.

(4) "Established name", with respect to a drug or ingredient of the drug, means:

(a) the applicable official name designated pursuant to section 508 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 358);

(b) if there is no official name and the drug or the ingredient is an article recognized in an official compendium, then the official title of the drug or ingredient in the compendium. If this subsection (4)(b) applies to an article recognized in the United States Pharmacopoeia, the official title used in the United States Pharmacopoeia applies.

(c) if neither subsection (4)(a) nor (4)(b) applies, then the common or usual name, if any, of the drug or of the ingredient.

(5) "Legend drug" means any drug defined by section 503(b) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)), as amended on January 15, 1980, under which its label is required to bear the statement: "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription."

(6) "Manufacturer" means a person who mixed the final ingredients and prepared the final drug product.

(7) "Solid dosage form" means capsules or tablets intended for oral use.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-715(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 213, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

50-31-302. Antiseptics considered to be germicides. The representation of a drug in its labeling or advertisement as an antiseptic is considered to be a representation that it is a germicide except in the case of a drug purporting to be or represented as an antiseptic for inhibitory use as a wet dressing, ointment, dusting powder, or other use which involves prolonged contact with the body.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-702(n).

50-31-303. Certain drug advertisements considered false. (1) For the purpose of this chapter, the advertisement of a drug or device representing it to have any effect in albuminuria, appendicitis, arteriosclerosis, blood poison, bone disease, Bright's disease, cancer, carbuncles, cholecystitis, diabetes, diphtheria, dropsy, erysipelas, gallstones, heart and vascular diseases, high blood pressure, mastoiditis, measles, meningitis, mumps, nephritis, otitis media, paralysis, pneumonia, poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), prostate gland disorders, pyelitis, scarlet fever, sexual impotence, sinus infection, smallpox, tuberculosis, tumors, typhoid, uremia, or a sexually transmitted disease shall also be deemed to be false, except that no advertisement not in violation of 50-31-107(1) shall be deemed to be false under this section if it is disseminated only to members of the medical, dental, or veterinary professions or appears only in the scientific periodicals of these professions or is disseminated only for the purpose of public health education by persons not commercially interested, directly or indirectly, in the sale of such drugs or devices.

(2) Whenever the department determines that an advance in medical science has made any type of self-medication safe as to any of the diseases named above, the department shall by regulation authorize the advertisement of drugs having curative or therapeutic effect for such disease, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the department may deem necessary in the interests of public health.

(3) This section shall not be construed as indicating that self-medication for diseases other than those named herein is safe or efficacious.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-720(b); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 440, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Advertising drug paraphernalia prohibited, 45-10-106.

50-31-304. Certain drugs and devices exempt from labeling requirements of chapter. Drugs and devices which are, in accordance with the practice of the trade, to be processed, labeled, or repacked in substantial quantities at establishments other than those where originally processed or packed shall be exempt from any labeling or packaging requirements of this chapter, provided that such drugs and devices are being delivered, manufactured, processed, labeled, repacked, or otherwise held in compliance with regulations issued by the department or under the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-715(part).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-31-305. When drug or device adulterated. A drug or device shall be deemed to be adulterated if it:

(1) consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance;

(2) has been produced, prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have been contaminated with filth or rendered injurious to health;

(3) is a drug and the methods used in or the facilities or controls used for its manufacture, processing, packing, or holding do not conform to or are not operated or administered in conformity with current good manufacturing practice to assure that such drug meets the requirements of this chapter as to safety and has the identity and strength and meets the quality and purity characteristics which it purports or is represented to possess;

(4) is a drug and its container is composed in whole or in part of any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render the contents injurious to health;

(5) is a drug and it bears or contains, for purposes of coloring only, a color additive which is unsafe within the meaning of the federal act or it is a color additive, the intended use of which in or on drugs is for purposes of coloring only, and is unsafe within the meaning of the federal act;

(6) purports to be or is represented as a drug, the name of which is recognized in an official compendium, and its strength differs from or its quality or purity falls below the standard set forth in such compendium. Such determination as to strength, quality, or purity shall be made in accordance with the tests or methods of assay set forth in such compendium or, in the absence of or inadequacy of such tests or methods of assay, those prescribed under authority of the federal act. No drug defined in an official compendium shall be deemed to be adulterated under this subsection because it differs from the standard of strength, quality, or purity therefor set forth in such compendium if its difference in strength, quality, or purity from such standard is plainly stated on its label.

(7) is not subject to the provisions of subsection (6) of this section and its strength differs from or its purity or quality falls below that which it purports or is represented to possess; or

(8) is a drug and any substance has been:

(a) mixed or packed therewith so as to reduce its quality or strength; or

(b) substituted wholly or in part therefor.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-714; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Use of additives, 50-31-109.

50-31-306. When drug or device misbranded. (1) A drug or device is considered to be misbranded:

(a) if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;

(b) if in package form unless it bears a label containing:

(i) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor, except that a prescription drug must contain the name and place of business of the manufacturer as well as the packer or distributor; and

(ii) an accurate statement of the quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count; provided that reasonable variation may be permitted and exemptions as to small packages may be allowed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the department or issued under the federal act;

(c) if any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this chapter to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed on the label or labeling with conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the labeling) and in terms that render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;

(d) if it is for use by humans and contains any quantity of the narcotic or hypnotic substance alpha-eucaine, barbituric acid, beta-eucaine, bromal, cannabis, carbromal, chloral, coca, cocaine, codeine, heroin, marijuana, morphine, opium, paraldehyde, peyote, Salvia divinorum, sulfonmethane, synthetic cannabinoids, or any chemical derivative of the substance that, after investigation, has been found to be and designated as habit-forming by regulations issued by the department under this chapter or by regulations issued pursuant to section 502(d) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 352(d)), unless its label bears the name and quantity or proportion of the substance or derivative in juxtaposition to the statement "Warning—May be habit-forming";

(e) if it is a drug, unless its label bears to the exclusion of any other nonproprietary name (except the applicable systematic chemical name or the chemical formula):

(i) the established name (as defined in 50-31-301) of the drug, if there is one; and

(ii) in case the drug is fabricated from two or more ingredients, the established name and quantity of each active ingredient, including the kind and quantity or proportion of any alcohol and also including, whether active or not, the established name and quantity or proportion of any bromides, ether, chloroform, acetanilid, acetphenetidin, amidopyrine, antipyrine, atropine, hyoscine, hyoscyamine, arsenic, digitalis, digitalis glucosides, mercury, ouabain, strophanthin, strychnine, thyroid, or any derivative or preparation of any such substances contained in the drug. However, the requirement for stating the quantity of the active ingredients, other than the quantity of those specifically named in this subsection (1)(e)(ii), applies only to prescription drugs, and to the extent that compliance with the requirements of this subsection (1)(e)(ii) is impracticable, exemptions may be allowed under regulations promulgated by the department or under the federal act.

(f) unless its labeling bears:

(i) adequate directions for use; however, if any requirement of this subsection (1)(f)(i), as applied to any drug or device, is not necessary for the protection of the public health, the department shall promulgate regulations exempting the drug or device from the requirements, and articles exempted under regulations issued under section 502(f) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 352(f)) may also be exempt; and

(ii) adequate warnings against use in those pathological conditions or by children when its use may be dangerous to health or adequate warnings against unsafe dosage or methods or duration of administration or application, in a manner and form that are necessary for the protection of users;

(g) if it purports to be a drug, the name of which is recognized in an official compendium unless it is packaged and labeled as prescribed in the compendium. The method of packing may be modified with the consent of the department or if consent is obtained under the federal act. In the event of inconsistency between the requirements of this subsection (1)(g) and those of subsection (1)(e) as to the name by which the drug or its ingredients must be designated, the requirements of subsection (1)(e) prevail.

(h) if it has been found by the department or under the federal act to be a drug liable to deterioration, unless it is packaged in a form and manner and its label bears a statement of precautions that the regulations issued by the department or under the federal act require as necessary for the protection of public health. A regulation may not be established for any drug recognized in an official compendium until the department has informed the appropriate body charged with the revision of the compendium of the need for the packaging or labeling requirements and the body has failed within a reasonable time to prescribe the requirements.

(i) if it is a drug and its container is made, formed, or filled in a way that is misleading;

(j) if it is an imitation of another drug;

(k) if it is offered for sale under the name of another drug;

(l) if it is dangerous to health when used in the dosage or with the frequency or duration prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling;

(m) if it is, purports to be, or is represented as a drug composed wholly or partly of insulin, unless:

(i) it is from a batch with respect to which a certificate or release has been issued pursuant to section 506 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 356); and

(ii) the certificate or release is in effect with respect to the drug;

(n) if it is, purports to be, or is represented as a drug composed wholly or partly of any kind of penicillin, streptomycin, chlortetracycline, chloramphenicol, bacitracin, any other antibiotic drug, or any derivative thereof unless:

(i) it is from a batch with respect to which a certificate or release has been issued pursuant to section 507 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 357); and

(ii) the certificate or release is in effect with respect to the drug. This subsection (1)(n) does not apply to any drug or class of drugs exempted by regulations promulgated under section 507(c) or (d) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 357(c) or (d)).

(o) if it is a color additive, the intended use of which in or on drugs is for the purpose of coloring only, unless its packaging and labeling are in conformity with the packaging and labeling requirements applicable to the color additive prescribed under the provisions of 50-31-108 or of the federal act;

(p) in the case of any prescription drug distributed or offered for sale in this state, unless the manufacturer, packer, or distributor of the drug includes in all advertisements and other descriptive printed matter issued or caused to be issued by the manufacturer, packer, or distributor with respect to that drug a true statement of:

(i) the established name, as defined in 50-31-301;

(ii) the formula showing quantitatively each ingredient of the drug to the extent required for labels under section 502(e) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 352(e)); and

(iii) other information in brief summary relating to side effects, contraindications, and effectiveness that is required in regulations issued under the federal act; or

(q) if a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, or device or another or any likeness of the foregoing has been placed on the drug or upon its container with intent to defraud.

(2) A drug that is subject to 50-31-307 is considered to be misbranded if, at any time prior to dispensing, its label fails to bear the statement "Caution: Federal Law Prohibits Dispensing Without Prescription", or "Caution: State Law Prohibits Dispensing Without Prescription". A drug to which 50-31-307 does not apply is considered to be misbranded if, at any time prior to dispensing, its label bears the caution statement quoted in the preceding sentence.

History: En. Secs. 15, 16, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-715(part), 27-716(d); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 214, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 156, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Regulation of sale of drugs and medicines by Board of Pharmacy, 37-7-201.

50-31-307. Dispensing of prescription drugs. (1) A drug intended for use by humans that is included in one of the categories in subsection (2) may be dispensed only if a practitioner licensed by law to administer or prescribe the drug:

(a) provides a written prescription;

(b) transmits the prescription directly to the pharmacy by electronic means or directly dispenses the drug pursuant to 37-2-104;

(c) provides an oral prescription that is reduced promptly to writing and filed by the pharmacist or practitioner, if the practitioner dispenses the drug; or

(d) authorizes the refilling of a written, electronic, or oral prescription either in the original prescription or by an oral order that is reduced promptly to writing and filed by the pharmacist or practitioner, if the practitioner fills the prescription.

(2) A drug must be dispensed as provided in subsection (1) if the drug:

(a) is a habit-forming drug to which 50-31-306(1)(d) applies;

(b) because of its toxicity or other potentiality for harmful effect, the method of its use, or the collateral measures necessary to its use, is not safe for use except under the supervision of a practitioner licensed by law to administer or prescribe the drug; or

(c) is limited by an approved application under section 505 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 355) or 50-31-311 to use under the professional supervision of a practitioner licensed by law to administer or prescribe the drug.

(3) If the drug is a factory prepackaged contraceptive, other than mifepristone, it may be dispensed as provided in subsection (1) or by a registered nurse employed by a family planning

clinic under contract with the department of public health and human services pursuant to a physician's written protocol specifying the circumstances under which dispensing is appropriate and pursuant to the board of pharmacy's rules concerning labeling, storage, and recordkeeping of drugs.

(4) The act of dispensing a drug contrary to the provisions of this section is considered an act that results in a drug being misbranded while held for sale.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-716(a); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 472, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 308, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 125, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 454, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Regulation of sale of drugs and medicines by Board of Pharmacy, 37-7-201.

Distribution or sale of DMSO for human use, 50-42-102.

50-31-308. Prescription drugs exempt from certain provisions of chapter. (1) Any drug dispensed by filling or refilling a written, electronic, or oral prescription of a practitioner licensed by law to administer or prescribe the drug is exempt from the requirements of 50-31-306, except subsections (1)(a), (1)(j), (1)(k), (1)(m), (1)(n), and the packaging requirements of subsections (1)(g) and (1)(h), if the drug bears a label containing:

(a) the name and address of the dispenser;

(b) the serial number and date of the prescription or the date it was filled;

(c) the name of the prescriber; and

(d) if stated in the prescription, the name of the patient and the directions for use and cautionary statements, if any, contained in the prescription.

(2) This exemption does not apply to any drug dispensed in the course of the conduct of a business of dispensing drugs pursuant to diagnosis by mail or to a drug dispensed in violation of 50-31-307.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-716(b); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 2015.

50-31-309. Removal of drugs from prescription requirement. The department may by regulation remove drugs subject to 50-31-306(1)(d) and 50-31-311 from the requirements of 50-31-307 when such requirements are not necessary for the protection of the public health. Drugs removed from the prescription requirements of the federal act by regulations issued thereunder may also, by regulations issued by the department, be removed from the requirements of 50-31-307.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-716(c).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-31-310. Narcotic and marijuana laws not affected. Nothing in 50-31-306(2), 50-31-307, 50-31-308, or 50-31-309 shall be construed to relieve any person from any requirement prescribed by or under authority of law with respect to drugs now included or which may hereafter be included within the classifications of narcotic drugs, marijuana, or synthetic cannabinoids, as defined in the applicable federal and state laws relating to narcotic drugs, marijuana, and synthetic cannabinoids.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-716(e); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 156, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Offenses involving dangerous drugs, Title 45, ch. 9.

50-31-311. New drug application required. (1) Except as provided in Title 50, chapter 42, a person may not sell, deliver, offer for sale, hold for sale, or give away any new drug unless:

(a) an application with respect to the drug has been approved and the approval has not been withdrawn under section 505 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 355); or

(b) when not subject to the federal act, the drug has been tested and has been found to be safe for use and effective in use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling of the drug and, prior to selling or offering for sale the drug, there has been filed with the department an application setting forth:

(i) full reports of investigations that have been made to show whether or not the drug is safe for use and whether the drug is effective in use;

(ii) a full list of the articles used as components of the drug;

(iii) a full statement of the composition of the drug;

(iv) a full description of the methods used in, and the facilities and controls used for, the manufacture, processing, and packing of the drug;

(v) samples of the drug and of the articles used as components of the drug that the department may require; and

(vi) specimens of the labeling proposed to be used for the drug.

(2) An application provided for in subsection (1)(b) becomes effective on the 180th day after the filing of the application. However, if the department finds, after due notice to the applicant and giving the applicant an opportunity for a hearing, that the drug is not safe or not effective for use under the conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the proposed labeling of the drug, the department shall, prior to the effective date of the application, issue an order refusing to permit the application to become effective.

(3) An order refusing to permit an application under this section to become effective may be revoked by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-717(a) thru (c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 216, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

50-31-312. Exemptions from new drug application requirement. (1) Section 50-31-311 does not apply to:

(a) a drug intended solely for investigational use by experts qualified by scientific training and experience to investigate the safety and effectiveness of drugs, provided the drug is plainly labeled in compliance with regulations issued by the department or pursuant to section 505(i) or 507(d) of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 355(i) or 357(d));

(b) a drug sold in this state at any time prior to the enactment of this chapter or introduced into interstate commerce at any time prior to the enactment of the federal act;

(c) any drug that is manufactured by an establishment licensed under 42 U.S.C. 262; or

(d) any drug that is subject to 50-31-306(1)(n).

(2) The provisions of 50-31-103(24) do not apply to any drug, when the drug is intended solely for use under conditions prescribed, recommended, or suggested in labeling with respect to the drug, that on October 9, 1962, or on the date immediately preceding July 1, 1967:

(a) was commercially sold or used in this state or in the United States;

(b) was not a new drug as defined by 50-31-103(24) as then in force; and

(c) was not covered by an effective application under 50-31-311 or under section 505 of the federal act (21 U.S.C. 355).

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-717(d), (e); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 169, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 217, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 373, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 186, L. 2019.**

50-31-313. Code imprint required on legend drugs. No legend drug in solid dosage form may be manufactured or distributed in this state unless it is clearly marked or imprinted with a code imprint identifying the drug and the manufacturer or distributor of the drug.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1981.**

Cross-References

Penalty for violation, 50-31-506.

50-31-314. Exemptions from code imprint requirement. The board of pharmacy may grant exemptions from the requirements of 50-31-313 and 50-31-315 upon a showing by a drug manufacturer or distributor that size, physical characteristics, or other compelling reasons render application of a code imprint on a legend drug subject to the provisions of 50-31-313 impractical or impossible. Any exemption granted must be included in the list required by 50-31-315 and must describe the physical characteristics and type of drug covered by the exemption.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Board of Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7, part 2.

50-31-315. List of code imprints to be provided. Upon request of the board of pharmacy, all manufacturers and distributors of legend drugs in solid dosage form who produce or distribute legend drugs in Montana must provide and keep current a list of those drugs, which list identifies the manufacturer and the specific type of each drug by code imprint.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 95, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Board of Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7, part 2.
Penalty for violation, 50-31-506.

Part 4
Cosmetics

Part Cross-References

Licensing of barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, estheticians, and manicurists, Title 37, ch. 31.

50-31-401. When cosmetic adulterated. A cosmetic shall be deemed to be adulterated if:

(1) it bears or contains any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render it injurious to users under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling or advertisement thereof or under such conditions of use as are customary or usual;

(2) it consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance;

(3) it has been produced, prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth or rendered injurious to health;

(4) its container is composed, in whole or in part, of any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render the contents injurious to health;

(5) it is not a hair dye and it is or it bears or contains a color additive which is unsafe within the meaning of the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-718(part).

Cross-References

Use of additives, 50-31-109.

50-31-402. When cosmetic misbranded. A cosmetic shall be deemed to be misbranded if:

(1) its labeling is false or misleading in any particular;

(2) in package form unless it bears a label containing:

(a) the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor; and

(b) an accurate statement of the quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count; provided that reasonable variations shall be permitted and exemptions as to small packages shall be established by regulations prescribed by the department;

(3) any word, statement, or other information required by or under authority of this chapter to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed thereon with such conspicuousness (as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices in the labeling) and in such terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use;

(4) its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading;

(5) it is a color additive, unless its packaging and labeling are in conformity with such packaging and labeling requirements applicable to such color additive prescribed under the provisions of the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-719(part).

50-31-403. Exceptions for hair dyes. (1) Section 50-31-401 shall not apply to coal tar hair dye, the label of which bears the following legend conspicuously displayed thereon: "Caution—This product contains ingredients which may cause skin irritation on certain individuals, and a preliminary test according to accompanying directions should first be made. This product must not be used for dyeing the eyelashes or eyebrows; to do so may cause blindness", and the labeling of which bears adequate directions for such preliminary testing.

(2) Section 50-31-402(5) shall not apply to packages of color additives which, with respect to their use for cosmetics, are marketed and intended for use only in or on hair dyes (as defined in 50-31-404).

History: (1)En. Sec. 18, Ch. 307, L. 1967; Sec. 27-718, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 27-719, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 27-718(part), 27-719(part).

50-31-404. Term hair dye not to include eyelash or eyebrow dyes. For the purpose of 50-31-401(5) and 50-31-403, the term "hair dye" shall not include eyelash dyes or eyebrow dyes.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-718(part).

Part 5
Prohibited Acts, Penalties, and Remedies

50-31-501. Prohibited acts. The following acts and the causing of the acts within the state of Montana are prohibited:

(1) the manufacture, sale or delivery, holding, or offering for sale of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic that is adulterated or misbranded;

(2) the adulteration or misbranding of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic;

(3) the receipt in commerce of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic that is adulterated or misbranded and the delivery or proffered delivery of any food, drug, device, or cosmetic for pay or otherwise;

(4) the sale, delivery for sale, holding for sale, or offering for sale of any article in violation of 50-31-311;

(5) the dissemination of any false advertisement;

(6) the refusal to permit entry or inspection or to permit the taking of a sample, as authorized by 50-31-106;

(7) the giving of a guaranty or undertaking if the guaranty or undertaking is false, except by a person who relied on a guaranty or undertaking signed by and containing the name and address of a person residing in the state of Montana and from whom the person received in good faith the food, drug, device, or cosmetic;

(8) the removal or disposal of a detained or embargoed article in violation of 50-31-509;

(9) the alteration, mutilation, destruction, obliteration, or commission of any other act with respect to a food, drug, device, or cosmetic or the removal, in whole or in part, of the labeling of a food, drug, device, or cosmetic if the act is done while the article is held for sale and results in the article being adulterated or misbranded;

(10) forging, counterfeiting, simulating, or falsely representing or, without proper authority, using any mark, stamp, tag, label, or other identification device authorized or required by regulations promulgated under the provisions of this chapter or federal act;

(11) using on the labeling of any drug or in any advertisement relating to the drug any representation or suggestion that an application with respect to the drug is effective under 50-31-311 or that the drug complies with the provisions of 50-31-311;

(12) in the case of a prescription drug distributed or offered for sale in this state, the failure of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor to maintain for transmittal or to transmit to any practitioner, licensed by applicable law to administer the drug and who makes written request for information as to the drug, true and correct copies of all printed matter that is required to be included in any package in which that drug is distributed or sold or other printed matter as is approved under the federal act. This subsection does not exempt any person from any labeling requirement imposed by or under other provisions of this chapter.

(13) placing or causing to be placed upon any drug, device, or container of a drug or device, with intent to defraud, the trade name, other identifying mark, or imprint of another or any likeness of the name, mark, or imprint;

(14) selling, dispensing, disposing of, or causing to be sold, dispensed, or disposed of or concealing or keeping in possession, control, or custody, with intent to sell, dispense, or dispose of, any drug, device, or any container of the drug or device with knowledge that the trade name, other identifying mark, or imprint of another or any likeness of any of the foregoing has been placed on the drug, device, or container in a manner prohibited by subsection (13);

(15) making, selling, disposing of, or causing to be made, sold, or disposed of or keeping in possession, control, or custody or concealing, with intent to defraud, any punch, die, plate, or other thing designed to print, imprint, or reproduce a trade name, other identifying mark, or imprint of another or any likeness of the name, mark, or imprint upon any drug, device, or container of the drug or device;

(16) the using by any person to the person's own advantage or revealing, other than to officers or employees of the department or the courts when relevant in any judicial proceeding under this chapter, any information acquired under authority of this chapter concerning any method or process that as a trade secret is entitled to protection;

(17) the distribution in commerce of a consumer commodity if the commodity is contained in a package or if there is affixed to that commodity a label that does not conform to the provisions of this chapter and of regulations promulgated under authority of this chapter. This prohibition does not apply to persons engaged in business as wholesale or retail distributors of consumer commodities except to the extent that the persons:

(a) are engaged in the packaging or labeling of the commodities; or

(b) prescribe or specify by any means the manner in which the commodities are packaged or labeled.

(18) the labeling or packaging of a food, drug, device, or cosmetic that fails to conform with the requirements of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 403, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-703(1) thru (16); amd. Sec. 309, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 373, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Immunity of persons donating food for free distribution, 27-1-716.
Deceptive business practices, 45-6-318.
Alteration of dangerous drug labels unlawful — penalty, 45-9-105, 45-9-106.
Penalties, 50-31-506.

50-31-502. Unlawful labeling of products resembling honey. It is unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any product which is in semblance of honey and which is labeled, advertised, or otherwise represented to be honey if it is not honey.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 114, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 403, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-703(part).

Cross-References

Labeling requirements, 50-31-204.
Penalties, 50-31-506.

50-31-503. Prosecution of minor violations not required. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the department to report for the institution of proceedings under this chapter minor violations of this chapter whenever the department believes that the public interest will be adequately served in the circumstances by a suitable written notice of warning.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-708.

50-31-504. Notice and hearing required prior to prosecution. Before a violation of this chapter is reported to a state or county attorney for the institution of a criminal proceeding, the person against whom the proceeding is contemplated must be given appropriate notice and an opportunity to present the person's views before the department or its designated agent, either orally or in writing and either in person or by attorney, with regard to the contemplated proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-707(part); amd. Sec. 1843, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-31-505. Duty of state or county attorneys to prosecute. Each state attorney or county attorney to whom the department reports a violation of this chapter shall cause appropriate proceedings to be instituted in the proper courts without delay and to be prosecuted in the manner required by law.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-707(part).

Cross-References

Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-31-506. Penalties. (1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of 50-31-204, 50-31-208, 50-31-313, 50-31-315, 50-31-501, or 50-31-502 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall on conviction thereof be subject to imprisonment for not more than 3 months, a fine of not more than $250, or both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) If the violation is committed after a conviction of such person under this section has become final, such person shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than 6 months, a fine of not more than $500, or both such imprisonment and fine.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-705(a); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 95, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Immunity of persons donating food for free distribution, 27-1-716.

Unauthorized sale or distribution of DMSO for human use, 50-42-102.

50-31-507. Exceptions to penalties. (1) A person is not subject to the penalties of 50-31-506 for having violated 50-31-501(1) or (3) if the person establishes a guaranty or undertaking signed by and containing the name and address of the person residing in the state of Montana from whom the person received in good faith the article to the effect that the article is not adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of this chapter, designating this chapter.

(2) The publisher, radiobroadcast licensee, or agency or medium for the dissemination of an advertisement, except the manufacturer, packer, distributor, or seller of the article to which a false advertisement relates, is not liable under 50-31-506 by reason of the dissemination by the person of the false advertisement, unless the person has refused, on the request of the department, to furnish the department the name and post-office address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, seller, or advertising agency residing in the state of Montana who causes the person to disseminate the advertisement.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-705(b), (c); amd. Sec. 1844, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Freedom of speech and expression, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

50-31-508. Injunction to restrain prohibited acts. In addition to the remedies hereinafter provided, the department is hereby authorized to apply to district court for and such court shall have jurisdiction upon hearing and for cause shown to grant a temporary or permanent injunction restraining any person from violating any provision of 50-31-204, 50-31-208, 50-31-501, or 50-31-502, irrespective of whether or not there exists an adequate remedy at law.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 307, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-704; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-31-509. Detainer of adulterated or misbranded articles. (1) If an agent of the department finds or has probable cause to believe that any food, drug, device, or cosmetic is adulterated or so misbranded as to be dangerous or fraudulent within the meaning of this chapter, the agent shall affix to the article a tag or other appropriate marking giving notice that the article is or is suspected of being adulterated or misbranded and has been detained or embargoed and warning all persons not to remove or dispose of the article by sale or otherwise until permission for removal or disposal is given by the agent or the court. It is unlawful for a person to remove or dispose of a detained or embargoed article by sale or otherwise without permission. The owner of an embargoed article or another authorized person and the department may enter into a disposal agreement providing for the disposal, reconditioning, or other disposition of the embargoed article. If an agreement is executed or if the embargo is otherwise removed by the department or the court, neither the department nor the state may be held liable for damages caused by the embargo provided that probable cause existed for its imposition.

(2) If an article detained or embargoed under subsection (1) is found by the agent to be adulterated or misbranded and a disposal agreement is not executed as provided in subsection (1), the agent shall petition the justice of the peace, city judge, or district court in whose jurisdiction the article is detained or embargoed for an order for condemnation of the article. If the agent finds that an article detained or embargoed is not adulterated or misbranded, the agent shall remove the tag or other marking.

(3) If the court finds that a detained or embargoed article is adulterated or misbranded, the article must, after entry of the decree, be destroyed at the expense of the claimant of the article under the supervision of the agent and all court costs and fees and storage and other proper expenses must be taxed against the claimant of the article or the claimant's agent.

(4) If the adulteration or misbranding can be corrected by proper labeling or processing of the article, the court, after entry of the decree and after the costs, fees, and expenses have been paid and a good and sufficient bond, conditioned that the article will be labeled or processed, has

been executed, may by order direct that the article be delivered to the claimant of the article for the labeling or processing under the supervision of an agent of the department. The expense of the supervision must be paid by claimant. The article must be returned to the claimant on the representation to the court by the department that the article is no longer in violation of this chapter and that the expenses of the supervision have been paid.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-706(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1845, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.
Justices' Courts jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 10, part 3.
City Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 11, part 1.

50-31-510. Condemnation of perishables. Whenever the department or any of its authorized agents find in any room, building, vehicle of transportation, or other structure any meat, seafood, poultry, vegetable, fruit, or other perishable article which is unsound or contains any filthy, decomposed, or putrid substance or that may be poisonous or deleterious to health or otherwise unsafe, the article being hereby declared to be a nuisance, the department or its authorized agent shall immediately condemn or destroy the article or in any other manner render the article unsalable as human food.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-706(4).

CHAPTER 32
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

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Chapter Cross-References

Dangerous drugs, Title 45, ch. 9.
Model Drug Paraphernalia Act, Title 45, ch. 10, part 1.
Regulation of drugs and drug devices, Title 50, ch. 31, part 3.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-32-101. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administer" means the direct application of a dangerous drug, whether by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or other means, to the body of a patient or research subject by:

(a) a practitioner or by the practitioner's authorized agent; or

(b) the patient or research subject at the direction and in the presence of the practitioner.

(2) (a) "Agent" means an authorized person who acts on behalf of or at the direction of a manufacturer, distributor, or dispenser.

(b) The term does not include a common or contract carrier, public warehouse operator, or employee of the carrier or warehouse operator.

(3) "Board" means the board of pharmacy provided for in 2-15-1733.

(4) "Bureau" means the drug enforcement administration, United States department of justice, or its successor agency.

(5) "Counterfeit substance" means a dangerous drug or the container or labeling of a dangerous drug without authorization that bears the trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark, imprint, number, or device or a likeness of an identifying mark, imprint, number, or device of a manufacturer, distributor, or dispenser other than the person who in fact manufactured, distributed, or dispensed the drug.

(6) "Dangerous drug" means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V set forth in Title 50, chapter 32, part 2.

(7) (a) "Dangerous drug analogue" means any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that is structurally related to or chemically derived from any dangerous drug in Schedules I through V set forth in Title 50, chapter 32, part 2, or that is expressly or impliedly represented to produce or does produce a physiological effect similar to or greater than the effect of a dangerous drug in Schedules I through V.

(b) The term does not include any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that is currently listed as a dangerous drug in Schedules I through V set forth in Title 50, chapter 32, part 2, or in an administrative rule, that is approved for use by the United States food and drug administration, or that is otherwise specifically excepted from Title 50, chapter 32, part 2.

(8) "Deliver" or "delivery" means the actual, constructive, or attempted transfer from one person to another of a dangerous drug, whether or not there is an agency relationship.

(9) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 17.

(10) "Dispense" means to deliver a dangerous drug to an ultimate user or research subject by or pursuant to the lawful order of a practitioner, including the prescribing, administering, packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the drug for that delivery.

(11) "Dispenser" means a practitioner who dispenses.

(12) "Distribute" means to deliver other than by administering or dispensing a dangerous drug.

(13) "Distributor" means a person who distributes.

(14) "Drug" has the same meaning as provided in 37-7-101.

(15) "Hashish", as distinguished from marijuana, means the mechanically processed or extracted plant material that contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and is composed of resin from the cannabis plant.

(16) "Immediate precursor" means a substance that the board finds to be and by rule designates as being the principal compound commonly used or produced primarily for use and that is an immediate chemical intermediary used or likely to be used in the manufacture of a dangerous drug, the control of which is necessary to prevent, curtail, or limit manufacture.

(17) (a) "Manufacture" means the production, preparation, propagation, compounding, conversion, or processing of a dangerous drug either directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of natural origin, independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis and includes the packaging or repackaging of the drug or labeling or relabeling of its container.

(b) Manufacture does not include the preparation or compounding of a dangerous drug by an individual for personal use or the preparation, compounding, packaging, or labeling of a dangerous drug:

(i) by a practitioner as an incident to the administering or dispensing of a dangerous drug in the course of a professional practice; or

(ii) by a practitioner or the practitioner's authorized agent under the practitioner's supervision for the purpose of or as an incident to research, teaching, or chemical analysis and not for sale.

(18) "Marijuana (marihuana)" means all plant material from the genus Cannabis containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or seeds of the genus capable of germination.

(19) "Narcotic drug" means any of the following, whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis:

(a) opium and opiate and a salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium or opiate;

(b) a salt, compound, isomer, derivative, or preparation of a salt, compound, isomer, or derivative that is chemically equivalent or identical with any of the drugs referred to in subsection (19)(a), but not including the isoquinoline alkaloids of opium;

(c) opium poppy and poppy straw; or

(d) coca leaves and a salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves and a salt, compound, isomer, derivative, or preparation of a salt, compound, isomer, or derivative that is chemically equivalent or identical with any of these drugs, but not including decocainized coca leaves or extractions of coca leaves that do not contain cocaine or ecgonine.

(20) "Opiate" means a drug having an addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability similar to morphine or being capable of conversion into a drug having addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining liability. The term does not include, unless specifically designated as a dangerous drug under 50-32-202, the dextrorotatory isomer of 3-methoxy-n-methylmorphinan and its salts (dextromethorphan). The term does include its racemic and levorotatory forms.

(21) "Opium poppy" means the plant of the species Papaver somniferum L., except its seeds.

(22) "Person" means an individual, corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, or any other legal entity.

(23) "Poppy straw" means all parts, except the seeds, of the opium poppy after mowing.

(24) "Practitioner" means:

(a) a physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific investigator, or other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, or conduct research with respect to or to administer a dangerous drug in the course of professional practice or research in this state;

(b) a pharmacy or other institution licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, or conduct research with respect to or to administer a dangerous drug in the course of professional practice or research in this state; and

(c) a physician licensed to practice medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dentistry in another state.

(25) "Prescription" means an order given individually for the person for whom prescribed, directly from the prescriber to the furnisher or indirectly to the furnisher, by means of an order signed by the prescriber and bearing the name and address of the prescriber, the prescriber's license classification, the name of the patient, the name and quantity of the drug or drugs prescribed, the directions for use, and the date of its issue. These stipulations apply to written, electronically transmitted, and telephoned prescriptions.

(26) "Production" includes the manufacture, planting, cultivation, growing, or harvesting of a substance or drug regulated under the provisions of this chapter.

(27) "State", when applied to a part of the United States, includes a state, district, commonwealth, territory, insular possession of the United States, and any area subject to the legal authority of the United States of America.

(28) "Ultimate user" means a person who lawfully possesses a dangerous drug for personal use or for the use of a member of the person's household or for administering to an animal owned by the person or by a member of the person's household.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 54-301; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 379, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 388, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 135, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Board of Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7, part 2.

50-32-102. Uniformity of construction. This chapter shall be so applied and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among those other states which enact it.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-326.

50-32-103. Board to administer chapter. (1) The board shall administer this chapter and may add drugs to or delete or reschedule all drugs enumerated in the schedules in 50-32-222, 50-32-224, 50-32-226, 50-32-229, or 50-32-232 pursuant to the rulemaking procedures of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(2) The board shall promulgate rules for its administration which are not inconsistent with this chapter and specifically shall levy and the department shall collect reasonable registration fees relating to the registration and control of the manufacture, distribution, and dispensing of dangerous drugs within the state. The maximum fee for any registration shall not exceed $100 per year.

History: En. Secs. 2, 15, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Secs. 2, 5, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(part), 54-315.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

Board of Pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7, part 2.

50-32-104. Board's authority limited. Authority to control under 50-32-103 does not extend to distilled spirits, liquor, wine, malt beverages, beer, porter, ale, stout, or tobacco.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(5).

Cross-References

Control of liquor, beer, and wine, Title 16, ch. 3.

50-32-105. Board to conduct educational programs. (1) The board shall carry out educational programs designed to prevent and deter misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs.

(2) In connection with these programs, it may:

(a) promote better recognition of the problems of misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs within the regulated industry and among interested groups and organizations;

(b) assist the regulated industry and interested groups and organizations in contributing to the reduction of misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs;

(c) consult with interested groups and organizations to aid them in solving administrative and organizational problems;

(d) evaluate procedures, projects, techniques, and controls conducted or proposed as part of educational programs on misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs;

(e) disseminate the results of research on misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs to promote a better public understanding of what problems exist and what can be done to combat them; and

(f) assist in the education and training of state and local law enforcement officials in their efforts to control misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-323(1).**

Cross-References

Teachers required to complete course in drug and alcohol abuse, 20-25-603.

50-32-106. Board to encourage research. (1) The board shall encourage research on misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs.

(2) In connection with the research and in furtherance of the enforcement of this chapter, it may:

(a) establish methods to assess accurately the effects of dangerous drugs and identify and characterize those with potential for abuse;

(b) make studies and undertake programs of research to:

(i) develop new or improved approaches, techniques, systems, equipment, and devices to strengthen the enforcement of this chapter;

(ii) determine patterns of misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs and the social effects thereof; and

(iii) improve methods for preventing, predicting, understanding, and dealing with the misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs; and

(c) request the department to enter into contracts with public agencies, institutions of higher education, and private organizations or individuals for the purpose of conducting research, demonstrations, or special projects which bear directly on misuse and abuse of dangerous drugs.

(3) The board may authorize persons engaged in research on the use and effects of dangerous drugs to withhold the names and other identifying characteristics of individuals who are the subjects of the research. Persons who obtain this authorization are not compelled in any civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceeding to identify the individuals who are the subjects of research for which the authorization was obtained.

(4) The board may authorize the possession and distribution of dangerous drugs by persons engaged in research. Persons who obtain this authorization are exempt from state prosecution for possession and distribution of dangerous drugs to the extent of the authorization.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-323(2) thru (4).**

Part 2
Scheduling of Dangerous Drugs

Part Cross-References

Regulation of dispensing of drugs by practitioners, Title 37, ch. 2, part 1.
Offenses involving dangerous drugs, Title 45, ch. 9.

50-32-201. General criteria to be considered. In making a determination regarding a drug, the board shall consider the following:

(1) the actual or relative potential for abuse;
(2) the scientific evidence of its pharmacological effect, if known;
(3) the state of current scientific knowledge regarding the drug;
(4) the history and current pattern of abuse;
(5) the scope, duration, and significance of abuse;

(6) the risk to the public health;

(7) the potential of the drug to produce psychic or physiological dependence liability; and

(8) whether the drug is an immediate precursor of a drug already controlled under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(part).**

50-32-202. Designation of drug as dangerous drug. After considering the factors enumerated in 50-32-201, the board shall make findings with respect thereto, and if it finds the drug has a potential for abuse, it shall designate such drug a dangerous drug in the manner set forth in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(2).**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

50-32-203. Effect of rescheduling under federal law. If any drug is designated, rescheduled, or deleted as a "controlled substance" under federal law and notice thereof is given to the board, the board shall similarly control the drug under this chapter after the expiration of 30 days from publication in the Federal Register of a final order designating a drug as a "controlled substance" or rescheduling or deleting a drug unless, within that 30-day period, the board objects to inclusion, rescheduling, or deletion. In that case, the board shall cause the reasons for objection to be published and afford all interested parties an opportunity to be heard. At the conclusion of the hearing, the department shall publish the board's decision which shall be final unless altered thereafter by the board or by statute. Upon publication of objection to inclusion, rescheduling, or deletion under this chapter by the board, control under this chapter is stayed until the board's decision is published.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(4).**

50-32-204. Immediate precursors. If the board designates a drug as an immediate precursor, drugs which are precursors of the controlled precursor shall not be subject to control solely because they are precursors of the controlled precursor.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(3).**

Cross-References

Criminal possession of precursors to dangerous drugs, 45-9-107.

50-32-205. Nonprescription drugs not to be scheduled. The board shall exclude any nonnarcotic drug from a schedule if the drug may, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, be lawfully sold over the counter without a prescription.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-302(6); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 472, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 2009.**

50-32-206. Use of names of scheduled drugs. The dangerous drugs listed or to be listed in the schedules in 50-32-222, 50-32-224, 50-32-226, 50-32-229, and 50-32-232 are included by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or trade name designated.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-303.**

50-32-207. Order forms for drugs in Schedules I and II. Dangerous drugs in Schedules I and II shall be distributed by a registrant to another registrant only pursuant to an order form. Compliance with the provisions of federal law respecting order forms shall be deemed compliance with this section unless the board prescribes particular forms to be used.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-321.**

50-32-208. Prescription and medical requirements for scheduled drugs — penalty. (1) (a) No dangerous drug in Schedule II may be dispensed without the written or electronic prescription of a practitioner.

(b) In emergency situations, as defined by rule of the board, Schedule II drugs may be dispensed upon a practitioner's oral prescription reduced promptly to writing and filed by the pharmacy. Prescriptions must be retained in conformity with the requirements of 50-32-309. A prescription for a Schedule II drug may not be refilled.

(2) A dangerous drug included in Schedule III or IV, which is a prescription drug as determined under the federal or Montana food, drug, and cosmetic acts, may not be dispensed without a written, electronic, or oral prescription of a practitioner. The prescription may not be

filled or refilled more than 6 months after the date of the prescription or be refilled more than five times unless renewed by the practitioner.

(3) A dangerous drug included in Schedule V may not be distributed or dispensed other than for a medical purpose.

(4) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both fined and imprisoned.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-322; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 379, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 206, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Regulation by Board of Pharmacy of sale of drugs and medicine, 37-7-201.

Regulation of prescriptions, Title 37, ch. 7, part 4.

50-32-209. Republication of schedules. The board shall revise and the department shall republish additions, deletions, or other changes to the schedules of dangerous drugs at times determined by the board. For the purposes of this section, the mandate to republish additions, deletions, or other changes is satisfied by publication in the Administrative Rules of Montana pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-314; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 379, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1997.

50-32-210 through 50-32-220 reserved.

50-32-221. Criteria for placement of drug in Schedule I. The board shall place a drug in Schedule I if it finds that the drug:

(1) has high potential for abuse; and

(2) has no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-304.

50-32-222. Specific dangerous drugs included in Schedule I. Schedule I consists of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(1) Opiates. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any of the following are opiates, including isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers whenever the existence of those isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) acetyl-alpha-methylfentanyl, also known as N-(1-(1-methyl-2-phenethyl)-4-piperidinyl) -N-phenylacetamide;

(b) acetylmethadol, also known as 4-(dimethylamino)-1-ethyl-2,2-diphenylpentyl acetate or methadyl acetate;

(c) allylprodine, also known as 1-methyl-4-phenyl-3-(prop-2-en-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl propanoate;

(d) alphacetylmethadol, except levo-alphacetylmethadol, also known as levo-alpha-acetylmethadol, levomethadyl acetate, or LAAM;

(e) alphameprodine;

(f) alphamethadol;

(g) alpha-methylfentanyl, also known as N-[1-(alpha-methyl-beta-phenyl)ethyl-4-piperidyl]propionanilide; 1-(1-methyl-2-phenylethyl)-4-(N-propanilido)piperidine;

(h) alpha-methylthiofentanyl, also known as N-[1-methyl-2-(2-thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide;

(i) benzethidine;

(j) betacetylmethadol;

(k) beta-hydroxyfentanyl, also known as N-[1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide;

(l) beta-hydroxy-3-methylfentanyl, also known as N-[1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenethyl)-3-methyl -4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide;

(m) betameprodine;

(n) betamethadol;

(o) betaprodine;
(p) brorphine;
(q) clonitazene;
(r) dextromoramide;
(s) diampromide;
(t) diethylthiambutene;
(u) difenoxin;
(v) dimenoxadol;
(w) dimepheptanol;
(x) dimethylthiambutene;
(y) dioxaphetyl butyrate;
(z) dipipanone;
(aa) ethylmethylthiambutene;
(bb) etonitazene;
(cc) etoxeridine;
(dd) fluorofentanyl;
(ee) furethidine;
(ff) hydroxypethidine;
(gg) isotonitazene;
(hh) ketobemidone;
(ii) levomoramide;
(jj) levophenacylmorphan;
(kk) 3-methylfentanyl, also known as N-[3-methyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide;
(ll) 3-methylthiofentanyl, also known as N-[3-methyl-1-(2-thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (optical and geometric isomers only);
(mm) morpheridine;
(nn) MPPP, also known as desmethylprodine and (1-methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine);
(oo) noracymethadol;
(pp) norlevorphanol;
(qq) normethadone;
(rr) norpipanone;
(ss) PEPAP, also known as (1-(-2-phenethyl)-4-phenyl-4-acetoxypiperidine);
(tt) phenadoxone;
(uu) phenampromide;
(vv) phenomorphan;
(ww) phenoperidine;
(xx) piritramide;
(yy) proheptazine;
(zz) properidine;
(aaa) propiram;
(bbb) racemoramide;
(ccc) thiofentanyl, also known as N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]propanamide;
(ddd) tilidine; and
(eee) trimeperidine.

(2) Substituted fentanyls (1-phenethyl-4-N-propionylanilinopiperidine) are, unless specifically excepted, listed in another schedule, approved by the United States food and drug administration, or not used within legitimate and approved medical research, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation, including its salts, isomers, esters, ethers, and salts of isomers, esters, or ethers whenever the existence of those salts is possible, within any of the following chemical designations that are structurally related to fentanyl by one or more of the following modifications:

(a) replacement of the phenyl portion of the phenethyl group by any monocyclic ring, whether or not further substituted in or on the monocyclic ring;

(b) substitution in or on the phenethyl group with alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxyl, hydroxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, or nitro groups;

(c) substitution in or on the piperidine ring with alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxyl, ester, ether, hydroxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, or nitro groups;

(d) replacement of the aniline ring with any aromatic monocyclic ring, whether or not further substituted in or on the aromatic monocyclic ring; or

(e) replacement of the N-propionyl group by another acyl group.

(3) Opium derivatives. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any of the following are opium derivatives, including salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) acetorphine;
(b) acetyldihydrocodeine;
(c) benzylmorphine;
(d) codeine methylbromide;
(e) codeine-N-oxide;
(f) cyprenorphine;
(g) desomorphine;
(h) dihydromorphine;
(i) drotebanol;
(j) etorphine, except hydrochloride salt;
(k) heroin;
(l) hydromorphinol;
(m) methyldesorphine;
(n) methyldihydromorphine;
(o) morphine methylbromide;
(p) morphine methylsulfonate;
(q) morphine-N-oxide;
(r) myrophine;
(s) nicocodeine;
(t) nicomorphine;
(u) normorphine;
(v) pholcodine; and
(w) thebacon.

(4) Hallucinogenic substances. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following is a hallucinogenic substance, including salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) alpha-ethyltryptamine, also known as etryptamine, monase, alpha-ethyl-1H-indole-3-ethanamine, 3-(2-aminobutyl) indole, alpha-ET, and AET;

(b) alpha-methyltryptamine, also known as AMT;

(c) 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine, also known as 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxy-alpha-methylphenethylamine, and 4-bromo-2,5-DMA;

(d) 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine, also known as 2-(4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-aminoethane, alpha-desmethyl DOB, and 2C-B, Nexus;

(e) 2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine, also known as 2,5-dimethoxy-alpha-methylphenethylamine and 2,5-DMA;

(f) 2,5-dimethoxy-4-(N)-propylthiophenethylamine, also known as 2C-T-7;

(g) 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine;

(h) 2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethylamphetamine, also known as DOET;

(i) 5-methoxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine, also known as 5-MeO-DIPT;

(j) 5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, also known as 5-MeO-DMT;

(k) 4-methoxyamphetamine, also known as 4-methoxy-alpha-methylphenethylamine;

(l) 5-methoxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine;

(m) 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine, also known as 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxy-alpha-methylphenethylamine, DOM, and STP;

(n) 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA;

(o) 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine, also known as N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3,4(methylenedioxy)phenethylamine, N-ethyl MDA, MDE, and MDEA;

(p) N-hydroxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, also known as N-hydroxy-alpha-methyl-3,4(methylenedioxy)phenethylamine and N-hydroxy MDA;

(q) 3,4,5-trimethoxyamphetamine;

(r) bufotenine, also known as 3-(beta-dimethylaminoethyl)-5-hydroxyindole, 3-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-5-indolol, N,N-dimethylserotonin, 5-hydroxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine, and mappine;

(s) diethyltryptamine, also known as N,N-diethyltryptamine and DET;

(t) dimethyltryptamine, also known as DMT;

(u) hashish;

(v) ibogaine, also known as 7-ethyl-6,6beta,7,8,9,10,12,13-octahydro-2-methoxy-6,9-methano-5H-pyrido[1', 2':1,2] azepine[5,4-b]indole and tabernanthe iboga;

(w) lysergic acid diethylamide, also known as LSD;

(x) marijuana;

(y) mescaline;

(z) parahexyl, also known as 3-hexyl-1-hydroxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran and synhexyl;

(aa) peyote, meaning all parts of the plant presently classified botanically as lophophora williamsii lemaire, whether growing or not; the seed of the plant; any extract from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seed, or extracts;

(bb) N-ethyl-3-piperidyl benzilate;

(cc) N-methyl-3-piperidyl benzilate;

(dd) psilocybin;

(ee) psilocyn, also known as psilocin;

(ff) tetrahydrocannabinols, neutral compounds, and their corresponding acids, including synthetic equivalents of the substances contained in the plant or in the resinous extractives of cannabis, or synthetic substances, derivatives, and their isomers with similar chemical structure and pharmacological activity, such as those listed in subsections (4)(ff)(i) through (4)(ff)(iii). Because nomenclature of these substances is not internationally standardized, compounds of these structures, regardless of numerical designation of atomic positions covered, are included in the category as follows:

(i) delta 9 (delta 1) cis or trans tetrahydrocannabinol and its optical isomers;

(ii) delta 8 (delta 6) cis or trans tetrahydrocannabinol and its optical isomers; and

(iii) delta 6a, 10a (delta 3,4) cis or trans tetrahydrocannabinol and its optical isomers.

(gg) ethylamine analog of phencyclidine, also known as N-ethyl-1-phenylcyclohexylamine, (1-phenylcyclohexyl)ethylamine, N-(1-phenylcyclohexyl)ethylamine, cyclohexamine, and PCE;

(hh) pyrrolidine analog of phencyclidine, also known as 1-(1-phenylcyclohexyl)-pyrrolidine, PCPy, and PHP;

(ii) thiophene analog of phencyclidine, also known as 1-[1-(2-thienyl)-cyclohexyl]-piperidine, 2-thienyl analog of phencyclidine, TPCP, and TCP;

(jj) 1-[1-(2-thienyl)cyclohexyl]pyrrolidine, also known as TCPy;

(kk) synthetic cannabinoids, including:

(i) unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any chemical compound chemically synthesized from or structurally similar to any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of a synthetic cannabinoid found in any of the following chemical groups, or any of those groups that contain synthetic cannabinoid salts, isomers, or salts of isomers, whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, or salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation, including all synthetic cannabinoid chemical analogs in the following groups:

(A) naphthoylindoles, whether or not substituted in the indole ring to any extent or the naphthyl ring to any extent;

(B) naphthylmethylindoles, whether or not substituted in the indole ring to any extent or the naphthyl ring to any extent;

(C) naphthoylpyrroles, whether or not substituted in the pyrrole ring to any extent or the naphthyl ring to any extent;

(D) naphthylmethylindenes, whether or not substituted in the indene ring to any extent or the naphthyl ring to any extent;

(E) acetylindoles, whether or not substituted in the indole ring to any extent or the acetyl group to any extent;

(F) cyclohexylphenols, whether or not substituted in the cyclohexyl ring to any extent or the phenyl ring to any extent;

(G) dibenzopyrans, whether or not substituted in the cyclohexyl ring to any extent or the phenyl ring to any extent; and

(H) benzoylindoles, whether or not substituted in the indole ring to any extent or the phenyl ring to any extent;

(ii) any compound that has been demonstrated to have agonist binding activity at one or more cannabinoid receptors or is a chemical analog or isomer of a compound that has been demonstrated to have agonist binding activity at one or more cannabinoid receptors;

(iii) 1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (also known as JWH-018);

(iv) (6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6, 6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol (also known as HU-210 or 1,1-dimethylheptyl-11-hydroxy-delta8-tetrahydrocannabinol);

(v) 2-(3-hydroxycyclohexyl)-5-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)phenol (also known as CP-47,497) and the dimethylhexyl, dimethyloctyl, and dimethylnonyl homologues of CP-47,497;

(vi) 1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (also known as JWH-073);

(vii) 1-(2-(4-(morpholinyl)ethyl))-3-(1-naphthoyl) indole (also known as JWH-200);

(viii) 1-pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole (also known as JWH-250);

(ix) 1-hexyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (also known as JWH-019);

(x) 1-pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl)indole (also known as JWH-398);

(xi) JWH-081: 1-pentyl-3-(4-methoxy-1-naphthoyl)indole, also known as 4-methoxynaphthalen-1-yl-(1-pentylindol-3-yl)methanone;

(xii) the following substances, except where contained in cannabis or cannabis resin, namely tetrahydro derivatives of cannabinol and 3-alkyl homologues of cannabinol or of its tetrahydro derivatives:

(A) [2,3-Dihydro-5-methyl-3-(4-morpholinylmethyl)pyrrolo[1,2,3-de]-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl]-1-napthalenylmethanone (also known as WIN-55,212-2);

(B) 3-dimethylheptyl-11-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol (also known as HU-243); or

(C) [9-hydroxy-6-methyl-3-[5-phenylpentan-2-yl]oxy-5,6,6a,7,8,9,10,10a-octahydrophenanthridin-1-yl]acetate;

(ll) Salvia divinorum, also known as salvinorin A (2S,4aR,6aR,7R,9S,10aS,10bR)-9-(acetyloxy)-2-(3-furanyl)dodecahydro-6a,10b-dimethyl-4,10-dioxo-2H-naphtho[2,1-c]pyran-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester;

(mm) substituted cathinones, including any compound, except bupropion or compounds listed in another schedule, in an administrative rule regulating controlled substances, or approved for use by the United States food and drug administration, that is structurally derived from 2-amino-1-phenyl-1-propanone by modification in any of the following ways:

(i) by substitution in the phenyl ring to any extent with alkyl, alkoxy, alkylenedioxy, haloalkyl, hydroxyl, or halide substituents, whether or not further substituted in the phenyl ring by one or more other univalent substituents;

(ii) by substitution at the 3-position with an alkyl substituent;

(iii) by substitution at the nitrogen atom with alkyl or dialkyl groups, or by inclusion of the nitrogen atom in a cyclic structure; and

(iv) any lengthening of the propanone chain between carbons 1 and 2 to any extent with alkyl groups, whether further substituted or not;

(nn) substituted amphetamines, including any compound, except compounds listed in another schedule, in an administrative rule regulating controlled substances, or approved for use by the United States food and drug administration, that is structurally derived from 1-phenyl-2-aminopropane by modification in any of the following ways:

(i) by substitution in the phenyl ring to any extent with alkyl, alkoxy, alkylenedioxy, haloalkyl, or halide substituents, whether or not further substituted in the phenyl ring by one or more other univalent substituents;

(ii) by substitution at the 3-position with an alkyl substituent;

(iii) by substitution at the nitrogen atom with alkyl or dialkyl groups, or by inclusion of the nitrogen atom in a cyclic structure; and

(iv) any lengthening of the propane chain between carbons 1 and 2 to any extent with alkyl groups, whether further substituted or not.

(5) (a) For the purposes of subsection (4), the term "isomer" includes the optical, positional, and geometric isomers.

(b) Subsection (4)(kk) does not apply to synthetic cannabinoids approved by the United States food and drug administration and obtained by a lawful prescription through a licensed pharmacy. The department of public health and human services shall adopt a rule listing the approved cannabinoids and shall update the rule as necessary to keep the list current.

(6) Depressants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a depressant having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, also known as gamma-hydroxybutyrate, 4-hydroxybutyrate, 4-hydroxybutanoic acid, sodium oxybate, sodium oxybutyrate, and GHB;

(b) mecloqualone;

(c) methaqualone; and

(d) substituted benzodiazepines, unless specifically excepted, listed in another schedule, in an administrative rule regulating controlled substances, approved for use by the United States food and drug administration, or not used within legitimate and approved medical research, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts is possible, within any of the following chemical designations that are structurally related to:

(i) a 1,4-benzodiazepine structure with any substitution at the 5-position, whether or not the 1,4-benzodiazepine is further substituted;

(ii) a 1,4-benzodiazepine structure fused with a triazole ring to form a triazolobenzodiazepine structure with any substitution at the 6-position, whether or not the triazolobenzodiazepine is further substituted;

(iii) a 1,4-diazepine ring fused with a thiophene ring and triazole ring to form a thienotriazolodiazepine structure with any substitution at the 4-position, whether or not the thienotriazolodiazepine is further substituted;

(iv) a 1,4-diazepin-one ring fused with a thiophene ring to form a thienodiazepine structure with any substitution at the 5-position, whether or not the thienodiazepine is further substituted;

(v) a 1,5-benzodiazepine structure with any substitutions at the 4-position, whether or not the 1,5-benzodiazepine is further substituted; or

(vi) a 1,5-benzodiazepine structure with any substitutions at the 5-nitrogen position, whether or not the 1,5-benzodiazpine is further substituted.

(7) Any compound that meets the criteria in subsection (6)(d) but is designated as a Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV, or Schedule V controlled substance under federal law will be placed in the same Schedule as under federal law.

(8) Stimulants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a stimulant having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers:

(a) aminorex, also known as aminoxaphen, 2-amino-5-phenyl-2-oxazoline, and 4,5-dihydro-5-phenyl-2-oxazolamine;

(b) cathinone, also known as 2-amino-1-phenyl-1-propanone, alpha-aminopropiophenone, 2-aminopropiophenone, and norephedrone;

(c) fenethylline;

(d) methcathinone, also known as 2-(methylamino)-propiophenone, alpha-(methylamino) propiophenone, 2-(methylamino)-1-phenylpropan-1-one, alpha-N-methylaminopropiophenone, monomethylpropion, ephedrone, N-methylcathinone, methylcathinone, AL-464, AL-422, AL-463, and UR1432, including its salts, optical isomers, and salts of optical isomers;

(e) 4-Methylaminorex (cis isomer), also known as U4Euh, McN-422;

(f) (levo-dextro) cis-4-methylaminorex, also known as (levo-dextro) cis-4,5-dihydro-4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-oxazolamine;

(g) N-benzylpiperazine, also known as 1-benzylpiperazine or BZP;

(h) N-ethylamphetamine; and

(i) N,N-dimethylamphetamine, also known as N,N-alpha-trimethyl-benzeneethanamine and N,N-alpha-trimethylphenethylamine.

(9) Substances subject to emergency scheduling. Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is included in this category:

(a) N-[1-benzyl-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (benzylfentanyl), its optical isomers, salts, and salts of isomers; and

(b) N-[1-(2-thienyl)methyl-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (thenylfentanyl), its optical isomers, salts, and salts of isomers.

(10) If prescription or administration is authorized by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, then any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing tetrahydrocannabinols listed in subsection (4) must automatically be rescheduled from Schedule I to the same schedule it is placed in by the United States drug enforcement administration.

(11) Dangerous drug analogues. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, this designation includes any material, compound, mixture, or preparation defined in 50-32-101 as a dangerous drug analogue.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-305; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 156, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 135, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 3, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 746, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 150, L. 2023, inserted (1)(p), (1)(dd), and (1)(gg), adding brorphine, fluorofentanyl, and isotonitazene as Schedule I opiates; in (1)(ll) at end inserted "(optical and geometric isomers only)"; deleted former (1)(pp) and former (2) (see sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2023, for former text); inserted (2) concerning substituted fentanyls; in (4)(z) substituted "3-hexyl-1-hydroxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d] pyran" for "3-hexyl-1-hydroxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6,8,9-trimethyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran"; in (4)(ee) after "psilocyn" inserted "also known as psilocin"; in (4)(ff) near beginning of introductory clause inserted "neutral compounds, and their corresponding acids"; in (4)(ff)(i) substituted "delta 9 (delta 1)" for "delta 1 (delta 9)"; in (4)(ff)(ii) substituted "delta 8 (delta 6)" for "delta 6"; in (4)(ff)(iii) substituted "delta 6a, 10a, (delta 3,4)" for "delta 3,4"; in (4)(mm) near middle inserted "in an administrative rule regulating controlled substances, or approved for use by the United States food and drug administration, that is"; in (4)(nn) substituted current introductory clause concerning substituted amphetamines for former introductory clause (see sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2023, for former text); inserted (6)(d) concerning substituted benzodiazepines; inserted (7) concerning following the scheduling of substituted benzodiazepines under federal law; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 11, Ch. 746, L. 2023, inserted text in (4)(ff) (see Ch. 150 note); substituted text in (4)(ff)(i), (4)(ff)(ii), and (4)(ff)(iii) (see Ch. 150 note); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, 45-9-101.

Criminal distribution of imitation dangerous drugs, 45-9-112.

50-32-223. Criteria for placement of drug in Schedule II. The board shall place a drug in Schedule II if it finds that:

(1) the drug has high potential for abuse;

(2) the drug has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions; and

(3) the abuse of the drug may lead to severe psychic or physical dependence.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-306.

50-32-224. Specific dangerous drugs included in Schedule II. Schedule II consists of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(1) Substances, vegetable origin or chemical synthesis. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any of the following substances, whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by a combination of extraction and chemical synthesis, are included in this category:

(a) opium and opiate and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium or opiate, excluding apomorphine, thebaine-derived butorphanol, dextrorphan, nalbuphine, naldemedine, nalmefene, naloxone, 6ß-naltrexol, naltrexone, naloxegol, and samidorphan and their respective salts, but including the following:

(i) raw opium;
(ii) opium extracts;
(iii) opium fluid;
(iv) powdered opium;
(v) granulated opium;
(vi) tincture of opium;
(vii) codeine;
(viii) dihydroetorphine;
(ix) ethylmorphine;
(x) etorphine hydrochloride;
(xi) hydrocodone;
(xii) hydromorphone;
(xiii) metopon;
(xiv) morphine;
(xv) noroxymorphone;
(xvi) oripavine;
(xvii) oxycodone;
(xviii) oxymorphone; and
(xix) thebaine;

(b) any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of them that is chemically equivalent or identical with any of the substances referred to in subsection (1)(a), except that these substances do not include the isoquinoline alkaloids of opium;

(c) opium poppy and poppy straw;

(d) coca leaves and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves, including cocaine and ecgonine and their salts, isomers, derivatives, and salts of isomers, and derivatives, and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of them that is chemically equivalent or identical with any of these substances, except that these substances do not include:

(i) decocainized coca leaves or extraction of coca leaves, which extractions do not contain cocaine or ecgonine; or

(ii) [^{123}I]ioflupane;

(e) concentrate of poppy straw, the crude extract of poppy straw in either liquid, solid, or powder form that contains the phenanthrene alkaloids of the opium poppy.

(2) Opiates. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any of the following are opiates, including isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers whenever the existence of those isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation, dextrorphan and levopropoxyphene excepted:

(a) alfentanil;
(b) alphaprodine;
(c) anileridine;
(d) bezitramide;
(e) bulk dextropropoxyphene (nondosage forms);
(f) carfentanil;
(g) dihydrocodeine;
(h) diphenoxylate;
(i) fentanyl;
(j) isomethadone;
(k) levo-alphacetylmethadol, also known as levo-alpha-acetylmethadol, levomethadyl acetate, and LAAM;
(l) levomethorphan;
(m) levorphanol;
(n) metazocine;
(o) methadone;

(p) methadone-intermediate, 4-cyano-2-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl butane;
(q) moramide-intermediate, 2-methyl-3-morpholino-1,1-diphenylpropane-carboxylic acid;
(r) oliceridine N-[(3-methoxythiophen-2-yl)methyl]({2-[(9R)-9-(pyridin-2-yl)-6-oxaspiro [4.5]decan-9-yl]ethyl})amine);
(s) pethidine, also known as meperidine;
(t) pethidine-intermediate-A, 4-cyano-1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine;
(u) pethidine-intermediate-B, ethyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylate;
(v) pethidine-intermediate-C, 1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid;
(w) phenazocine;
(x) piminodine;
(y) racemethorphan;
(z) racemorphan;
(aa) remifentanil;
(bb) sufentanil;
(cc) tapentadol; and
(dd) thiafentanil.

(3) Stimulants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a stimulant having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system:
(a) amphetamine, its salts, optical isomers, and salts of its optical isomers;
(b) phenmetrazine and its salts;
(c) lisdexamfetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers;
(d) methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers; and
(e) methylphenidate.

(4) Depressants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a depressant having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:
(a) amobarbital;
(b) glutethimide;
(c) pentobarbital;
(d) phencyclidine; and
(e) secobarbital.

(5) Hallucinogenic substances include the following:

(a) dronabinol in oral solution in a drug product approved for marketing by the United States food and drug administration;

(b) nabilone, also known as (levo-dextro)-trans-3-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-6,6-alpha,7,8,10,10-alpha-hexahydro-1-hydroxy-6,6-dimethyl-9H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran-9-one.

(6) Immediate precursors. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is an immediate precursor:

(a) 4-Anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP);

(b) phenylacetone, an immediate precursor to amphetamine and methamphetamine, also known as phenyl-2-propanone, P2P, benzyl methyl ketone, and methyl benzyl ketone;

(c) 1-phenylcyclohexylamine and 1-piperidinocyclohexanecarbonitrile (PCC), immediate precursors to phencyclidine (PCP); and

(d) N-phenyl-N-(piperidin-4-yl)propionamide (norfentanyl).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-307; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 113, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 135, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 134, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, 45-9-101.
Criminal distribution of imitation dangerous drugs, 45-9-112.

50-32-225. Criteria for placement of drug in Schedule III. The board shall place a drug in Schedule III if it finds that:

(1) the drug has a potential for abuse less than the drugs listed in Schedules I and II;

(2) the drug has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and

(3) abuse of the drug may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-308.

50-32-226. Specific dangerous drugs included in Schedule III. Schedule III consists of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(1) Stimulants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a stimulant having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including salts, isomers (whether optical, position, or geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) benzphetamine;
(b) chlorphentermine;
(c) clortermine; and
(d) phendimetrazine.

(2) Depressants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a depressant having a depressant effect on the central nervous system:

(a) any compound, mixture, or preparation containing amobarbital, secobarbital, or pentobarbital or any salt of any of these drugs and one or more other active medicinal ingredients that are not listed in any schedule;

(b) any suppository dosage form containing amobarbital, secobarbital, or pentobarbital or any salt of any of these drugs approved by the United States food and drug administration for marketing only as a suppository;

(c) any substance that contains any quantity of a derivative of barbituric acid or any salt of barbituric acid;

(d) aprobarbital;
(e) butabarbital, also known as secbutabarbital;
(f) butalbital;
(g) butobarbital, also known as butethal;
(h) chlorhexadol;
(i) embutramide;
(j) gamma hydroxybutyric acid preparations;
(k) ketamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers, also known as (±)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)cyclohexanone;
(l) lysergic acid;
(m) lysergic acid amide;
(n) methyprylon;
(o) sulfondiethylmethane;
(p) sulfonethylmethane;
(q) sulfonmethane;
(r) talbutal;
(s) tiletamine and zolazepam or any of their salts. A trade or other name for a tiletamine-zolazepam combination product is telazol. A trade or other name for tiletamine is 2-(ethylamino)-2-(2-thienyl)-cyclohexanone. A trade or other name for zolazepam is 4-(2-fluorophenyl)-6,8-dihydro-1,3,8-trimethylpyrazolo-[3,4-e][1,4]-diazepin-7(1H)-one, flupyrazapon.
(t) thiamylal;
(u) thiopental; and
(v) vinbarbital.

(3) Nalorphine.

(4) Narcotic drugs. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing any of the following is a narcotic drug, including its salts calculated as the free anhydrous base or alkaloid in the following limited quantities:

(a) not more than 1.8 grams of codeine per 100 milliliters or not more than 90 milligrams per dosage unit, with an equal or greater quantity of an isoquinoline alkaloid of opium;

(b) not more than 1.8 grams of codeine per 100 milliliters or not more than 90 milligrams per dosage unit, with one or more active, nonnarcotic ingredients in recognized therapeutic amounts;

(c) not more than 1.8 grams of dihydrocodeine per 100 milliliters or not more than 90 milligrams per dosage unit, with one or more active, nonnarcotic ingredients in recognized therapeutic amounts;

(d) not more than 300 milligrams of ethylmorphine per 100 milliliters or not more than 15 milligrams per dosage unit, with one or more active, nonnarcotic ingredients in recognized therapeutic amounts;

(e) not more than 500 milligrams of opium per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams or not more than 25 milligrams per dosage unit, with one or more active, nonnarcotic ingredients in recognized therapeutic amounts;

(f) not more than 50 milligrams of morphine per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams, with one or more active, nonnarcotic ingredients in recognized therapeutic amounts; or

(g) any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing buprenorphine.

(5) Anabolic steroids. The term "anabolic steroid" means any drug or hormonal substance, chemically and pharmacologically related to testosterone, other than estrogens, progestins, and corticosteroids, that promotes muscle growth. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing any quantity of the following substances is an anabolic steroid, including its salts, isomers, esters, or ethers and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers whenever the existence of those salts is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) androstanedione, also known as 5-alpha-androstan-3,17-dione;

(b) 1-androstenediol, also known as 3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androst-1-ene; or 3-alpha,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androst-1-ene;

(c) 1-androstenedione, also known as 5-alpha-androst-1-en-3,17-dione;

(d) 3-alpha,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androstane;

(e) 3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androstane;

(f) 4-androstenediol, also known as 3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxy-androst-4-ene;

(g) 4-androstenedione, also known as androst-4-en-3,17-dione;

(h) 4-dihydrotestosterone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxyandrostan-3-one;

(i) 4-hydroxy-19-nortestosterone, also known as 4,17-beta-dihydroxy-estr-4-en-3-one;

(j) 4-hydroxytestosterone, 4,17-beta-dihydroxy-androst-4-en-3-one;

(k) 5-androstenediol, also known as 3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxy-androst-5-ene;

(l) 5-androstenedione, also known as androst-5-en-3,17-dione;

(m) 13-beta-ethyl-17-beta-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one;

(n) 17-alpha-methyl-3-alpha,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androstane;

(o) 17-alpha-methyl-3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxy-5-alpha-androstane;

(p) 17-alpha-methyl-3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxyandrost-4-ene;

(q) 17-alpha-methyl-4-hydroxynandrolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-4-hydroxy-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;

(r) 17-alpha-methyl-delta-1-dihydrotestosterone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxy-17-alpha-methyl-5-alpha-androst-1-en-3-one, 17-alpha-methyl-1-testosterone;

(s) 19-nor-4-androstenediol, also known as 3-beta-17-beta-dihydroxyestr-4-ene; or 3-alpha-17-beta-dihydroxyestr-4-ene;

(t) 19-nor-4-androstenedione, also known as estr-4-en-3,17-dione;

(u) 19-nor-5-androstenediol, also known as 3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxyestr-5-ene; or 3-alpha,17-beta-dihydroxyestr-5-ene;

(v) 19-nor-5-androstenedione, also known as estr-5-en-3,17-dione;

(w) calusterone, also known as 7-beta,17-alpha-dimethyl-17-beta-hydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one;

(x) 19-Nor-4,9(10)-androstadienedione, also known as estra-4,9(10)-diene-3,17-dione;
(y) bolasterone, also known as (7-alpha-dimethyl)-17-beta-hydroxyandrost-4-ene-3-one;
(z) boldenone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxyandrost-1,4,-diene-3-one;
(aa) boldione, also known as androsta-1,4-diene-3,17-dione;
(bb) chlorotestosterone, also known as 4-chlortestosterone;
(cc) clostebol;
(dd) delta-1-dihydrotestosterone, also known as (17-beta-hydroxy-5-alpha-androst-1-en-3-one), 1-testosterone;
(ee) dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, also known as 4-chloro-17-beta-hydroxy-17-alpha-methylandrost-1,4-dien-3-one;
(ff) desoxymethyltestosterone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-5-alpha-androst-2-en-17-beta-ol;
(gg) dihydrochlormethyltestosterone;
(hh) dihydrotestosterone, also known as 4-dihydrotestosterone;
(ii) drostanolone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxy-2-alpha-methyl-5-alpha-androstan-3-one;
(jj) ethylestrenol, also known as 17-alpha-ethyl-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-ene;
(kk) fluoxymesterone, also known as 9-fluoro-17-alpha-methyl-11-beta,17-beta-dihydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one;
(ll) formebulone, also known as 2-formyl-17-alpha-methyl-11-alpha,17-beta-dihydroxyandrost-1,4-dien-3-one or formebolone;
(mm) furazabol, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyandrostano-[2,3-c]-furazan;
(nn) mestanolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxy-5-alpha-androstan-3-one;
(oo) mesterolone, also known as 1-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxy-(5-alpha)-androstan-3-one;
(pp) methandienone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyandrost-1,4-diene-3-one;
(qq) methandranone;
(rr) methandriol, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-3-beta,17-beta-dihydroxyandrost-5-one;
(ss) methandrostenolone, also known as (17-beta)-17-hydroxy-17-methylandrosta-1,4-dien-3-one;
(tt) methasterone, also known as 2-alpha-17-alpha-dimethyl-5-alpha-androstan-17-beta-ol-3-one;
(uu) methenolone, also known as 1-methyl-17-beta-hydroxy-5-alpha-androst-1-en-3-one;
(vv) methyldienolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyestra-4,9-(10)-dien-3-one;
(ww) methyltestosterone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one;
(xx) methyltrienolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyestra-4,9,11-trien-3-one;
(yy) mibolerone, also known as 17-alpha,17-alpha-dimethyl-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;
(zz) nandrolone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;
(aaa) norbolethone, also known as 13-beta,17-alpha-diethyl-17-beta-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one;
(bbb) norclostebol, also known as 4-chloro-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;
(ccc) norethandrolone, also known as 17-alpha-ethyl-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;
(ddd) normethandrolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one;
(eee) oxandrolone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxy-2-oxa-(5-alpha)-androstan-3-one;
(fff) oxymestrone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-4,17-beta-dihydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one;
(ggg) oxymetholone, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-2-hydroxymethylene-17-beta-hydroxy-(5-alpha)-androstan-3-one;
(hhh) prostanozol, also known as 17-beta-hydroxy-5-alpha-androstano[3,2-c]pryazole;
(iii) stanolone;

(jjj) stanozolol, also known as 17-alpha-methyl-17-beta-hydroxy-(5-alpha)-androst-2-eno-(3,2-c)-pyrazole;

(kkk) stenbolone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxy-2-methyl-5-alpha-androst-1-en-3-one;

(lll) talbutal, also known as 5-(1-methylpropyl)-5-(2-propenyl)-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)-pyrimidinetrione;

(mmm) testolactone, also known as 13-hydroxy-3-oxo-13,17-secoandrosta-1,4-dien-17-oic acid lactone;

(nnn) testosterone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one;

(ooo) trenbolone, also known as 17-beta-hydroxyestr-4,9,11-trien-3-one; or

(ppp) tetrahydrogestrinone, also known as 13-beta,17-alpha-diethyl-17-beta-hydroxygon-4,9,11-trien-3-one.

(6) Hallucinogenic substances include dronabinol (synthetic) in sesame oil and encapsulated in a soft gelatin capsule in a United States food and drug administration-approved drug product, also known as (6-alpha-R-trans)-6-alpha,7,8,10-alpha-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-3-pentyl-6H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran-1-ol or (-)-delta-9-(trans)-tetrahydrocannabinol.

(7) Anticonvulsant substances include perampanel.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-309(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 36, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 42, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 113, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 135, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 134, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, 45-9-101.

Criminal distribution of imitation dangerous drugs, 45-9-112.

50-32-227. Board authorized to exempt certain compounds, mixtures, or preparations from Schedule III. The board may except by rule any compound, mixture, or preparation containing any stimulant or depressant drug listed in 50-32-226(1) and (2) from the application of all or any part of this chapter if the compound, mixture, or preparation contains one or more active medicinal ingredients not having a stimulant or depressant effect on the central nervous system and if the admixtures are included therein in combinations, quantity, proportion, or concentration that vitiate the potential for abuse of the drugs which have a stimulant or depressant effect on the central nervous system.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-309(5).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-32-228. Criteria for placement of drug in Schedule IV. The board shall place a drug in Schedule IV if it finds that:

(1) the drug has a low potential for abuse relative to drugs in Schedule III;

(2) the drug has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and

(3) abuse of the drug may lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence relative to the drugs in Schedule III.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-310.

50-32-229. Specific dangerous drugs included in Schedule IV. Schedule IV consists of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(1) Narcotic drugs. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing any of the following narcotic is a drug, including its salts calculated as the free anhydrous base or alkaloid in the following limited quantities:

(a) not more than 1 milligram of difenoxin and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit;

(b) butorphanol;

(c) dextropropoxyphene (alpha-(+)-4-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane);

(d) difenoxin 1mg/25ug AtSO4/du;

(e) pentazocine; and

(f) tramadol (2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexanol).

(2) Depressants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a depressant, including salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

(a) alprazolam;
(b) barbital;
(c) brexanolone;
(d) bromazepam;
(e) camazepam;
(f) chloral betaine;
(g) chloral hydrate;
(h) chlordiazepoxide;
(i) clobazam;
(j) clonazepam;
(k) clorazepate;
(l) clotiazepam;
(m) cloxazolam;
(n) daridorexant;
(o) delorazepam;
(p) diazepam;
(q) dichloralphenazone;
(r) estazolam;
(s) ethchlorvynol;
(t) ethinamate;
(u) ethyl loflazepate;
(v) fludiazepam;
(w) flunitrazepam;
(x) flurazepam;
(y) fospropofol, also known as lusedra;
(z) halazepam;
(aa) haloxazolam;
(bb) ketazolam;
(cc) lemborexant;
(dd) loprazolam;
(ee) lorazepam;
(ff) lormetazepam;
(gg) mebutamate;
(hh) medazepam;
(ii) meprobamate;
(jj) methohexital;
(kk) methylphenobarbital, also known as mephobarbital;
(ll) midazolam;
(mm) nimetazepam;
(nn) nitrazepam;
(oo) nordiazepam;
(pp) oxazepam;
(qq) oxazolam;
(rr) paraldehyde;
(ss) petrichloral;
(tt) phenobarbital;
(uu) pinazepam;
(vv) prazepam;
(ww) quazepam;
(xx) remimazolam;
(yy) temazepam;
(zz) tetrazepam;

(aaa) triazolam;
(bbb) zaleplon;
(ccc) zolpidem; and
(ddd) zopiclone.

(3) Fenfluramine. Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of fenfluramine, including its salts, isomers (whether optical, position, or geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of those salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible.

(4) Stimulants. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a stimulant having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers:
(a) cathine, also known as (+)-norpseudoephedrine;
(b) diethylpropion;
(c) fencamfamin;
(d) fenproporex;
(e) mazindol;
(f) mefenorex;
(g) modafinil;
(h) pemoline, including organometallic complexes and chelates thereof;
(i) phentermine;
(j) pipradrol;
(k) serdexmethylphenidate;
(l) sibutramine;
(m) solriamfetol (2-amino-3-phenylpropyl carbamate; benzenepropanol, beta-amino-, carbamate (ester)); and
(n) SPA ((-)-1-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenylethane).

(5) Ephedrine.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of ephedrine having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, enantiomers (optical isomers), and salts of enantiomers (optical isomers) when ephedrine is the only active medicinal ingredient or is used in combination with therapeutically insignificant quantities of another active medicinal ingredient.

(b) Ephedrine does not include materials, compounds, mixtures, or preparations labeled in compliance with the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, 21 U.S.C. 321, et seq., that contain only natural ephedra alkaloids or extracts of natural ephedra alkaloids.

(c) Ephedrine may be immediately accessible for use by a licensed physician in a patient care area if it is under the physician's direct supervision.

(6) Other substances. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of carisoprodol, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers.

(7) Hypnotic substances include suvorexant.

(8) Anorexiant substances include lorcaserin.

(9) Gastrointestinal substances include eluxadoline.

(10) General anesthetic substances include alfaxalone.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-311(1), (2); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 141, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 36, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 113, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 135, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 134, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, 45-9-101.
Criminal distribution of imitation dangerous drugs, 45-9-112.

50-32-230. Board authorized to exempt certain compounds, mixtures, or preparations from Schedule IV. The board may except by rule any compound, mixture, or preparation containing any depressant drug listed in 50-32-229 from the application of all or any part of this chapter if the compound, mixture, or preparation contains one or more active medicinal ingredients not having a depressant effect on the central nervous system and if the admixtures are included therein in combinations, quantity, proportion, or concentration that vitiate the potential for abuse of the drugs which have a depressant effect on the central nervous system.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-311(3).**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-32-231. Criteria for placement of drug in Schedule V. The board shall place a drug in Schedule V if it finds that:

(1) the drug has low potential for abuse relative to the controlled drugs listed in Schedule IV;

(2) the drug has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; and

(3) the drug has limited physical dependence or psychological dependence liability relative to the dangerous drugs listed in Schedule IV.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-312.**

50-32-232. Specific dangerous drugs included in Schedule V. Schedule V consists of the drugs and other substances, by whatever official, common, usual, chemical, or brand name designated, listed in this section.

(1) Narcotic drugs containing nonnarcotic active medicinal ingredients. Any compound, mixture, or preparation containing any of the following is a narcotic drug, including its salts, calculated as the free anhydrous base or alkaloid in limited quantities as set forth in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f), which include one or more nonnarcotic, active medicinal ingredients in sufficient proportion to confer upon the compound, mixture, or preparation valuable medicinal qualities other than those possessed by narcotic drugs alone:

(a) not more than 200 milligrams of codeine per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

(b) not more than 100 milligrams of dihydrocodeine per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

(c) not more than 100 milligrams of ethylmorphine per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

(d) not more than 2.5 milligrams of diphenoxylate and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit;

(e) not more than 100 milligrams of opium per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams; and

(f) not more than 0.5 milligram of difenoxin and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit.

(2) Stimulants. Unless specifically exempted or excluded or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of pyrovalerone is a stimulant having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers.

(3) Depressants. Unless specifically exempted or excluded or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances is a depressant having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers:

(a) lacosamide, also known as (R)-2-acetoamido-N-benzyl-3-methoxy-propionamide or vimpat; and

(b) pregabalin, also known as (S)-3-(aminomethyl)-5-methylhexanoic acid or lyrica.

(4) Anticonvulsant substances include the following:

(a) ezogabine;

(b) brivaracetam;

(c) cenobamate; and

(d) ganaxalone.

(5) Antimigraine substances including lasmiditan.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-313; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 141, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 36, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 113, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 135, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 134, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, 45-9-101.

Criminal distribution of imitation dangerous drugs, 45-9-112.

50-32-233. Exempt anabolic steroid products. The following anabolic steroid-containing compounds, mixtures, or preparations are exempt from this chapter:

(1) androgyn L.A.;
(2) andro-estro 90-4;
(3) depandrogyn;
(4) DEPO-T.E.;
(5) deptestrogen;
(6) duomone;
(7) duratestrin;
(8) duo-span II;
(9) estratest;
(10) estratest HS;
(11) pan estra test;
(12) premarin with methyltestosterone;
(13) synovex H pellets in process;
(14) synovex H pellets in process granulation;
(15) test-estro cypionates;
(16) testagen;
(17) testosterone cyp 50 estradiol cyp 2;
(18) testosterone, cypionate-estradiol, cypionate injection;
(19) testosterone, enanthate-estradiol, valerate injection; and
(20) tilapia sex reversal feed (investigational).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 113, L. 1997.**

Part 3
Annual Registration

50-32-301. Annual registration required for manufacturer, distributor, or dispenser. (1) Every person who manufactures, distributes, or dispenses any dangerous drug within this state must obtain annually a registration issued by the department in accordance with board rules.

(2) Persons registered by the board under this chapter to manufacture, distribute, dispense, or conduct research with dangerous drugs may possess, manufacture, distribute, dispense, or conduct research with those drugs to the extent authorized by their registration and in conformity with the other provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(1), (2); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 379, L. 1981.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-32-302. Exceptions to registration requirement. The following persons need not register and may lawfully possess dangerous drugs under this chapter:

(1) an agent or employee of any registered manufacturer, distributor, or dispenser of any dangerous drug if the agent or employee is acting in the usual course of business or employment;

(2) a common or contract carrier or warehouse operator or an employee of the carrier or warehouse operator, whose possession of any dangerous drug is in the usual course of business or employment;

(3) an ultimate user or a person in possession of any dangerous drug pursuant to a lawful order of a practitioner or in lawful possession of a Schedule V drug;

(4) officers and employees of the state, or a political subdivision of the state while acting in the course of their official duties.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(3); amd. Sec. 1846, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-32-303. Waiver of registration requirement for practitioners licensed by federal government. The board shall waive the requirement for registration of practitioners, other than pharmacies, who are registered or licensed by the federal government to dispense dangerous drugs.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(4).**

50-32-304. Waiver of registration requirement when in public interest. The board may waive by rule the requirement for registration of certain manufacturers, distributors, or dispensers if it finds it consistent with the public health and safety.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(5).**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-32-305. Separate registration required. A separate registration is required at each principal place of business or professional practice where the applicant manufactures, distributes, or dispenses dangerous drugs.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(6).**

50-32-306. Criteria for registration of manufacturers and distributors. (1) The board shall register an applicant to manufacture or distribute dangerous drugs included in 50-32-222, 50-32-224, 50-32-226, 50-32-229, and 50-32-232 unless it determines that the issuance of that registration would be inconsistent with the public interest.

(2) In determining the public interest, the board shall consider the following factors:

(a) maintenance of effective controls against diversion of dangerous drugs into other than legitimate medical, scientific, or industrial channels;

(b) compliance with applicable state and local law;

(c) any convictions of the applicant under any federal and state laws relating to any dangerous drug;

(d) past experience in the manufacture or distribution of dangerous drugs and the existence in the applicant's establishment of effective controls against diversion;

(e) furnishing by the applicant of false or fraudulent material in any application filed under this chapter;

(f) suspension or revocation of the applicant's federal registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense dangerous drugs as authorized by federal law; and

(g) any other factors relevant to and consistent with the public health and safety.

(3) Compliance by manufacturers and distributors with the provisions of the federal law respecting registration (excluding fees) entitles them to be registered under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-317(1), (4).**

50-32-307. Manufacture and distribution limited by registration. Registration under 50-32-306 does not entitle a registrant to manufacture and distribute dangerous drugs in Schedule I or II other than those specified in the registration.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-317(2).**

50-32-308. Criteria for registration of practitioners. (1) Practitioners shall be registered to dispense any dangerous drugs or to conduct research with dangerous drugs in Schedules II through V if they are authorized to dispense or conduct research under the laws of this state. The board need not require separate registration for practitioners engaging in research with nonnarcotic dangerous drugs in Schedules II through V where the registrant is already registered under this chapter in another capacity.

(2) Practitioners registered under federal law to conduct research with Schedule I drugs may conduct research with Schedule I drugs within this state upon furnishing the board evidence of that federal registration.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-317(3).**

50-32-309. Registrants to maintain records and inventories. Persons registered to manufacture, distribute, or dispense dangerous drugs under this chapter shall keep records and maintain inventories in conformance with the recordkeeping and inventory requirements of federal law and with any additional rules the board issues.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-320.

Cross-References

Prescription requirements, 50-32-208.

50-32-310. Inspections authorized. The board may have the establishment of a registrant or applicant for registration inspected.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 54-316(7).

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-32-311. Revocation or suspension of registration. (1) A registration under 50-32-301 to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a dangerous drug may be suspended or revoked by the board upon a finding that the registrant has:

(a) furnished false or fraudulent material information in any application filed under this chapter;

(b) been convicted of a felony under any state or federal law relating to any dangerous drug or controlled substance; or

(c) had the registrant's federal registration suspended or revoked to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances.

(2) The board may limit revocation or suspension of a registration to the particular dangerous drug with respect to which grounds for revocation or suspension exist.

(3) If the board suspends or revokes a registration, all dangerous drugs owned or possessed by the registrant at the time of suspension or the effective date of the revocation order may be placed under seal. A disposition may not be made of drugs under seal until the time for taking an appeal has elapsed or until all appeals have been concluded unless a court, upon application, orders the sale of perishable drugs and the deposit of the proceeds of the sale with the court. Upon a revocation order becoming final, all dangerous drugs may be forfeited to the state.

(4) The board shall promptly cause the bureau to be notified of all orders suspending or revoking registration and all forfeitures of dangerous drugs.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 54-318; amd. Sec. 1847, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-32-312. Procedure for denial, suspension, revocation of, or refusal to renew registration. (1) Before denying, suspending, or revoking a registration or refusing a renewal of registration, the board shall serve upon the applicant or registrant an order to show cause why registration should not be denied, revoked, or suspended or why the renewal should not be refused. The order to show cause shall contain a statement of the basis therefor and shall require the applicant or registrant to appear before the board at a time and place not less than 30 days after the date of service of the order, but in the case of a denial of renewal of registration, the show cause order shall be served not later than 30 days before the expiration of the registration. These proceedings shall be conducted without regard to any criminal prosecution or other proceeding. Proceedings to refuse renewal of registration do not abate the existing registration, which remains in effect pending the outcome of the administrative hearing.

(2) The board may suspend, without an order to show cause, any registration simultaneously with the institution of proceedings under 50-32-311 or whenever renewal of registration is refused if it finds that there is an imminent danger to the public health or safety which warrants such action. The suspension continues in effect until the conclusion of the proceedings, including judicial review thereof, unless sooner withdrawn by the board or dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 412, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 54-319.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

50-32-313. Practitioner's failure to register a misdemeanor. Practitioners who fail or refuse to register as required by this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction therefor may be fined not to exceed $1,000, imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 412, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 54-327.

50-32-314. Board to adopt rules for registration of outpatient center for surgical services. (1) The board shall adopt rules to provide for the registration of any outpatient center for surgical services pursuant to this part. The rules must categorize the outpatient center for surgical services as a "distributor" pursuant to 50-32-101(13) or other category of registrant as determined by the board.

(2) If the board determines that an outpatient center for surgical services requires the services of a pharmacist in order to be registered, the board shall allow that center to use the services of a consulting pharmacist to satisfy the obligation imposed by the board.

(3) This section does not affect any existing registration requirement pursuant to this part for persons providing dangerous drugs to an outpatient center for surgical services or persons administering dangerous drugs within or as the result of procedures performed at an outpatient center for surgical services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 135, L. 2013.

Part 4
Transfer of Precursors to Controlled Substances

50-32-401. Report required for precursor to controlled substance. (1) A manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other person who sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes any of the following substances to a person in this state shall submit a report to the department of justice detailing all transactions:

(a) phenyl-2-propanone;
(b) methylamine;
(c) d-lysergic acid;
(d) ergotamine tartrate;
(e) diethyl malonate;
(f) malonic acid;
(g) ethyl malonate;
(h) barbituric acid; and
(i) piperidine.

(2) The department of justice may adopt, amend, or repeal rules in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act that add or delete substances on the list of regulated substances in subsection (1) if the substance is a precursor to a dangerous drug as defined in 50-32-101.

(3) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(a) a pharmacist, veterinary dispensing technician, or other authorized person who sells or furnishes the substance upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian;

(b) a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian who administers or furnishes the substance to patients;

(c) a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by the board of pharmacy who sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes the substance to a licensed pharmacist, physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian;

(d) transfers of the substances listed in subsection (1) within any college or university to an employee or student of the college or university for the purpose of teaching or research authorized by the college or university.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1848, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 759, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 759, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

50-32-402. Reports required — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other person who sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes any substance regulated pursuant to 50-32-401 to a person in this state must, within 72 hours, submit a report of the transaction to the department of justice.

(2) The department may authorize the submission of the reports on a monthly basis for repeated, regular transactions between the furnisher and the recipient involving the same substance, if the department determines:

(a) a pattern of regular supply of the substance exists as between the manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or other person who sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes the substance and the recipient of the substance; and

(b) the recipient has established a record of use of the substance for lawful purposes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.

50-32-403. Common reporting form. (1) The department of justice must provide a common reporting form for the report required under 50-32-401.

(2) The form must contain the following information:

(a) name of the substance;

(b) quantity of the substance sold, transferred, or furnished;

(c) the date the substance was sold, transferred, or furnished;

(d) the name and address of the person buying or receiving the substance; and

(e) the name and address of the manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 227, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.

50-32-404. Loss, theft, or other discrepancy to be reported. (1) The theft or loss of a substance regulated in accordance with 50-32-401 must be reported to the department of justice within 3 days after the theft or loss is discovered.

(2) Any difference between the quantity received of any substance regulated as provided in 50-32-401 and the quantity shipped must be reported to the department of justice within 3 days of the discovery of the discrepancy.

(3) A report made pursuant to this section shall also include the name of the common carrier or person who transported the substance and the date of shipment.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 227, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.

50-32-405. Violation — penalties. (1) A person commits the offense of failure to report distribution of a precursor to a controlled substance if the person purposely or knowingly fails to report the sale, transfer, or other furnishing of a substance regulated by 50-32-401.

(2) A person convicted of failing to report the distribution of a precursor to a controlled substance shall be fined not more than $10,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for not more than 10 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 227, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 432, L. 1999.

Part 5
Regulation of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine

50-32-501. Restricted possession, purchase, or other transfer of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine — exceptions — penalties. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person may not purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire more than 9 grams within any 30-day period or more than 3.6 grams per day of any product, mixture, or preparation containing any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, any of their salts or optical isomers, or salts of their optical isomers.

(2) This section does not apply to any quantity of a product, mixture, or preparation dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription or as provided in 50-32-502.

(3) Possession of more than 9 grams of a drug product containing any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, their salts or optical isomers, or salts of their optical isomers constitutes a rebuttable presumption of the intent to use the product as a precursor to methamphetamine or another controlled substance.

(4) The rebuttable presumption in subsection (3) does not apply to:

(a) a retail distributor of drug products;

(b) a wholesale drug distributor, or its agents, licensed by the board of pharmacy;

(c) a manufacturer of drug products or its agents;

(d) a pharmacist licensed by the board of pharmacy; or

(e) a licensed health care professional possessing the drug products in the course of carrying out the profession.

(5) A person who knowingly or negligently violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 and by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 1 year.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2015.

50-32-502. Restricted sale and access to ephedrine or pseudoephedrine products — exceptions — penalties. (1) The retail sale of a product that contains any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, their salts or optical isomers, or salts of their optical isomers may be made only in a pharmacy licensed pursuant to Title 37, chapter 7, or a retail establishment that is certified by the department of justice pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) (a) If there is not a licensed community pharmacy within a county, then a retail establishment may apply to the department of justice for certification as an establishment that is allowed to sell products that contain any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, their salts or optical isomers, or salts of their optical isomers.

(b) The department of justice shall adopt rules to establish criteria for the certification of retail establishments with the intent to limit the available supply of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to prevent the manufacture of methamphetamine.

(c) The department of justice may certify a retail establishment based on the criteria adopted by rule.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (5), a licensed pharmacy or certified retail establishment provided for in subsection (1) that dispenses, sells, or distributes products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine shall:

(a) display the products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine behind the store counter in an area that is not accessible to customers or in a locked case so that a customer is required to ask an employee of the licensed pharmacy or certified retail establishment for assistance in purchasing the product;

(b) limit sales to packages containing no more than a total of 3.6 grams base weight;

(c) require the person purchasing, receiving, or otherwise acquiring any product, mixture, or preparation containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to produce a valid driver's license or other form of valid government-issued photo identification and sign a record of sale or acquisition that includes the type of identification presented, including the identification number and issuing governmental entity, the time and date of the transaction, the name and address of the person purchasing or acquiring the ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, and the name of the ephedrine or pseudoephedrine product sold, including the number of grams contained in the product;

(d) require the purchaser to sign the record of sale or acquisition, acknowledging:

(i) that the record may be kept in written or electronic form;

(ii) an understanding of the applicable sales limit; and

(iii) that providing false statements or misrepresentations may subject the purchaser to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. 1001; and

(e) take action as necessary to ensure that a person does not purchase or acquire more than 3.6 grams per day of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine from the licensed pharmacy or certified retail establishment provided for in subsection (1) or more than 9 grams in any 30-day period. The limits apply to the total amount of base ephedrine or pseudoephedrine contained in the products and not to the overall weight of the products.

(4) A licensed pharmacy or certified retail establishment provided for in subsection (1) that dispenses, sells, or distributes products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine shall maintain all records made under subsection (3) and enter the records into the recordkeeping and monitoring system provided for in 50-32-503. Each record must be maintained by the licensed pharmacy or certified retail establishment provided for in subsection (1) for 2 years.

(5) This section does not apply to:

(a) any quantity of a product, mixture, or preparation dispensed pursuant to a valid prescription;

(b) the sale of a single package containing no more than 60 milligrams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to an individual;

(c) a product that the board, upon application by a manufacturer, exempts from this section by rule because the product has been formulated in a manner as to effectively prevent the conversion of the active ingredient into methamphetamine or its salts or precursors; or

(d) any product or precursor dispensed pursuant to a prescription.

(6) (a) A person who negligently violates any provision of this section is punishable by a fine of not more than $500.

(b) A person who knowingly violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 and by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days.

(7) This section supersedes and preempts any rule, regulation, code, or ordinance of any political subdivision or other unit of local government that attempts to regulate the sale or purchase of compounds, mixtures, or preparations containing any detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, their salts or optical isomers, or salts of their optical isomers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 251, L. 2015.

50-32-503. Electronic recordkeeping and monitoring system. (1) The department of justice shall provide for the state's participation in a real-time electronic recordkeeping and monitoring system for the sale of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. The system must:

(a) be approved by the department of justice and provided at no charge to the state, law enforcement, or participating pharmacies and certified retail establishments;

(b) provide at no charge to participating pharmacies and certified retail establishments appropriate training, 24-hour online support, and a toll-free telephone help line that is staffed 24 hours a day;

(c) be able to communicate in real time with similar systems operated in other states and the District of Columbia and similar systems containing information submitted by more than one state;

(d) comply with information exchange standards adopted by the national information exchange model;

(e) include a stop sales alert that:

(i) provides notification that completion of a sale would result in the purchaser violating the quantity limits set forth in this part;

(ii) includes an override function that may be used by a pharmacy or certified retail establishment under the circumstances set forth in subsection (2); and

(iii) records each instance in which the override function is utilized;

(f) record the following:

(i) the date and time of a transaction;

(ii) the name, address, date of birth, and photo identification number of the purchaser, the type of identification used, and the issuing governmental entity;

(iii) the number of packages purchased, the total number of grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine per package, and the name of the compound, mixture, or preparation containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine; and

(iv) the signature of the purchaser or a unique number connecting the transaction to a paper signature retained at the retail premises;

(g) ensure that submitted data is retained within the system for at least 2 years from the date of submission; and

(h) be accessible by law enforcement.

(2) (a) A pharmacy or certified retail establishment may not complete a sale if the system generates a stop sales alert unless the individual dispensing the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or related compound has a reasonable fear of imminent bodily harm if the sale is not completed.

(b) In the event of a mechanical or electronic interruption of the system, the pharmacy or certified retail establishment shall maintain a written log of sales of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine until the system is restored. The information written in the log must be transmitted to the system as soon as practicable after the system is restored.

(3) The following entities may not be required to participate in the electronic system and may not be required to maintain a written log:

(a) licensed manufacturers that manufacture and lawfully distribute products in the channels of commerce;

(b) wholesalers that lawfully distribute products in the channels of commerce;

(c) inpatient pharmacies of health care facilities licensed in this state;

(d) licensed long-term health care facilities;

(e) government-operated health care clinics, departments, or centers;

(f) physicians who dispense drugs pursuant to state law;

(g) pharmacies located in correctional facilities; and

(h) government-operated or industry-operated medical facilities serving the employees of the state or local or federal government.

(4) The department of justice, a law enforcement agency of the state, or a federal agency conducting a criminal investigation involving the manufacture of methamphetamine consistent with state or federal law may access data, records, and reports regarding the sale of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. In addition, the information may be accessed if relevant to proceedings in a court, investigatory grand jury, or special grand jury.

(5) All data, records, and reports related to the sale of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to retail customers and any abstracts of the data, records, and reports that are in the possession of the department of justice pursuant to this section are confidential and exempt from disclosure under Title 2, chapter 6.

(6) An entity operating the system or a pharmacy or certified retail establishment that sells a product containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine may not use or disclose information collected or contained in the system or a written log for any purpose other than to:

(a) ensure compliance with this section or the federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005, Public Law 109-177;

(b) comply with the United States government or its political subdivision for law enforcement purposes under state or federal law; or

(c) facilitate a product recall necessary to protect the public health and safety.

(7) (a) A pharmacy or certified retail establishment that releases in good faith confidential information to federal, state, or local law enforcement or to a person acting on the behalf of law enforcement or that utilizes the system in accordance with this section is immune from civil liability for the release of the information or for acts or omissions in utilizing the system under this section unless the release or the act or omission constitutes gross negligence or intentional, wanton, or willful misconduct.

(b) The civil immunity provisions of subsection (7)(a) do not apply to a person employed by or an entity operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 251, L. 2015.**

Part 6
Help Save Lives From Overdose Act

50-32-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Help Save Lives From Overdose Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 2017.**

50-32-602. Purpose. The purposes of this part are to:

(1) save the lives of persons who have experienced an opioid-related drug overdose by providing the broadest possible access to lifesaving opioid antagonist medication;

(2) facilitate the availability and use of opioid antagonist medication by providing professional, civil, and criminal immunity to persons who prescribe, dispense, distribute, or administer an opioid antagonist; and

(3) encourage persons to seek medical treatment in an opioid-related drug overdose situation by providing immunity from prosecution for certain criminal offenses for persons who seek or receive the medical treatment.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 253, L. 2017.**

50-32-603. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administer" means to apply an opioid antagonist to the body of another person by injection, inhalation, ingestion, auto-injector, or another means.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Dispense" or "dispensing" has the meaning provided in 37-7-101.

(4) "Distribute" has the meaning provided in 37-7-101.

(5) "Eligible recipient" means:

(a) a person who is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose;

(b) a family member, friend, or other person who is in a position to assist a person who is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose;

(c) a first responder or a first responder entity;

(d) a harm reduction organization or its representative;

(e) the Montana state crime laboratory or its representative;

(f) a person who, on behalf of or at the direction of a law enforcement agency or officer, may process, store, handle, test, transport, or possess a suspected or confirmed opioid;

(g) a probation, parole, or detention officer;

(h) a county or other local public health department or its representative; or

(i) a veterans' organization or its representative.

(6) "First responder" means a paid or volunteer firefighter, law enforcement officer, or other authorized person who responds to an emergency in a professional or volunteer capacity. The term does not include an ECP, also known as an emergency care provider, as defined in 37-3-102.

(7) "Harm reduction organization" means an organization that provides direct assistance and services, including but not limited to counseling, screening, and drug treatment, to persons at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.

(8) "Law enforcement officer" means a person who is a peace officer as defined in 46-1-202 or any other agent of a criminal justice agency as defined in 44-5-103.

(9) "Medical practitioner" has the meaning provided in 37-2-101.

(10) "Opioid antagonist" means a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors. The term includes naloxone hydrochloride and any other similarly acting drug approved by the United States food and drug administration.

(11) "Opioid-related drug overdose" means an acute condition evidenced by symptoms, including but not limited to physical illness, pinpoint pupils, coma, decreased level of consciousness, or respiratory depression, resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid or another substance with which an opioid is combined.

(12) "Standing order" means a written document prepared by a medical practitioner that authorizes an eligible recipient to acquire, distribute, or administer medication without a person-specific prescription.

(13) "State medical officer" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under Title 37, chapter 3, who is employed by the department to, among other things, provide advice and expertise to the department on medical policy and issues of public health importance.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 253, L. 2017.**

50-32-604. Statewide standing orders for opioid antagonist. (1) The state medical officer may prescribe on a statewide basis an opioid antagonist by one or more standing orders to eligible recipients.

(2) A standing order must specify, at a minimum:

(a) the opioid antagonist formulations and means of administration that are approved for dispensing;

(b) the eligible recipients to whom the opioid antagonist may be dispensed;

(c) any training that is required for an eligible recipient to whom the opioid antagonist is dispensed;

(d) the circumstances under which an eligible recipient may distribute or administer the opioid antagonist; and

(e) the timeline for renewing and updating the standing order.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-605. Prescribing and dispensing authority for opioid antagonist. A medical practitioner may prescribe, directly, by a standing order, or by a collaborative practice agreement, or dispense, as permitted under 37-2-104, an opioid antagonist to an eligible recipient. The medical practitioner shall document the reasons for which the opioid antagonist was prescribed or dispensed.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-606. Designation of patient — instruction. (1) A prescription issued pursuant to 50-32-604 or 50-32-605 must designate the eligible recipient as the patient, regardless of the eligible recipient's status as an individual, organization, agency, or other entity. Except as provided in 50-32-605, the prescription must be dispensed by a licensed pharmacy.

(2) A licensed pharmacy or medical practitioner dispensing an opioid antagonist shall provide the patient with basic instruction and information, the content of which must be developed by the department and made publicly available on the department's website, concerning recognition of the signs and symptoms of an opioid-related drug overdose, indications for the administration of an opioid antagonist, administration technique, and the need for immediate and long-term followup to the administration of the opioid antagonist, including calling 9-1-1.

(3) An eligible recipient described in 50-32-603(5)(c) through (5)(i) who distributes an opioid antagonist pursuant to 50-32-607 shall:

(a) fulfill the basic instruction and information requirements set forth in subsection (2); and

(b) develop protocol for:

(i) instructing and training the eligible recipient's employees or other authorized personnel that is consistent with the instruction and information developed by the department under subsection (2); and

(ii) the storage, maintenance, and location of the opioid antagonist.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-607. Authorization for possession and administration of opioid antagonist — reporting. (1) An eligible recipient to whom an opioid antagonist is prescribed, dispensed, or distributed pursuant to 50-32-604 through 50-32-606 and who has received the instruction and information provided for in 50-32-606 may do any of the following:

(a) possess and store the opioid antagonist. The storage of an opioid antagonist is not subject to pharmacy practice laws or other requirements that apply to the storage of drugs or medications.

(b) in good faith, administer or direct another person to administer the opioid antagonist to a person who is experiencing an actual or reasonably perceived opioid-related drug overdose; or

(c) distribute the opioid antagonist to a person who is an eligible recipient under 50-32-603(5)(a) or (5)(b).

(2) An eligible recipient to whom an opioid antagonist is dispensed pursuant to 50-32-604 through 50-32-606 shall report, if required by the department, information regarding the dispensing, distribution, and administration of the opioid antagonist.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-608. Professional conduct — immunity. (1) A prescription issued pursuant to 50-32-604 or 50-32-605 is considered to have been issued for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of a professional practice.

(2) Except for injury or damages arising from gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or an intentional tort:

(a) a medical practitioner or licensed pharmacist may not be subject to disciplinary action or civil or criminal liability for injury resulting from the prescribing or dispensing of an opioid antagonist pursuant to 50-32-604 through 50-32-606 to an eligible recipient; and

(b) an eligible recipient may not be subject to disciplinary action or civil or criminal liability for injury resulting from distributing an opioid antagonist pursuant to 50-32-606 and 50-32-607.

(3) A medical practitioner, eligible recipient, emergency care provider, or other person is not liable and may not be subject to disciplinary action as a result of any injury arising from the administration of an opioid antagonist to another person whom the medical practitioner, eligible recipient, emergency care provider, or other person believes in good faith to be suffering from an opioid-related drug overdose, unless the injury arises from an act or omission that is the result of gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or an intentional tort.

(4) The provisions of 50-32-601 through 50-32-607 do not establish a duty or standard of care with respect to the decision of whether to prescribe, dispense, distribute, or administer an opioid antagonist.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-609. Good Samaritan protections. (1) The provisions of 45-5-626, 45-9-102, 45-9-107, and 45-10-103 do not apply to:

(a) a person who, acting in good faith, seeks medical assistance for another person who is experiencing an actual or reasonably perceived drug-related overdose if the evidence supporting an arrest, charge, or prosecution was obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance for another person; or

(b) a person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance if the evidence supporting an arrest, charge, or prosecution was obtained as a result of the drug-related overdose and the need for medical assistance.

(2) The provisions of 45-9-102, 45-9-107, and 45-10-103 do not apply to a pregnant woman seeking or receiving evaluation, treatment, or support services for a substance use disorder.

(3) The provisions of 45-5-601(2)(a) do not apply to a person reporting a crime under 45-5-502 or 45-5-503.

(4) A person's pretrial release, probation, furlough, supervised release, or parole may not be revoked based on an incident for which the person would be immune from arrest, charge, or prosecution under this section.

(5) A person's act of providing first aid or other medical assistance to a person who is experiencing an actual or reasonably perceived drug-related overdose may be used as a mitigating factor in a criminal prosecution for which immunity is not provided under this section.

(6) This section may not be construed to:

(a) bar the admissibility of evidence obtained in connection with the investigation and prosecution of other crimes or violations committed by a person who otherwise qualified for limited immunity under this section;

(b) limit, modify, or remove immunity from liability currently available to public entities, public employees, or prosecutors or by law; or

(c) create a new cause of action or other source of criminal liability for a pregnant woman with a substance use disorder who does not seek or receive evaluation, treatment, or support services for a substance use disorder.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 253, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 2021.

50-32-610. Grants. The department may apply for and award grants to further the purposes outlined in 50-32-601 through 50-32-607.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

50-32-611. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules regarding opioid antagonist instruction, training, and reporting, as provided for in 50-32-606 and 50-32-607.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 253, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 33
BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-33-101. Labeling of containers by blood banks required.
50-33-102. Furnishing of blood, blood products, and human tissue, organs, or bones declared service and not sale.
50-33-103. Immunity of physicians and hospitals.
50-33-104. Immunity of blood banks and tissue banks.

Chapter Cross-References
AIDS education and prevention, Title 50, ch. 16, part 10.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-33-101. Labeling of containers by blood banks required. Each container or package containing any whole blood, plasma, blood products, or blood derivatives sold by a blood bank shall have plainly stamped or printed thereon the fact that the product therein was tested as required in 50-33-104, giving the date of the test and such information as is necessary to designate the type of test made.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2205.

50-33-102. Furnishing of blood, blood products, and human tissue, organs, or bones declared service and not sale. The furnishing of and the injecting, transfusing, transplanting, or transferring into the human body of whole blood, plasma, blood products, blood derivatives, human tissue, organs, or bones by a hospital, long-term care facility, or doctor of any such substances obtained from any source which said hospital, long-term care facility, or doctor is not directly or indirectly financially interested in or has any control over is hereby declared not to be a sale of such whole blood, plasma, blood products, blood derivatives, human tissue, organs, or bones for any purpose.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2203(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 1987.

Cross-References
Sale as defined in Uniform Commercial Code, 30-2-106.

50-33-103. Immunity of physicians and hospitals. No physician, long-term care facility, or hospital may be held liable, in the absence of fault or negligence on the part of such a hospital, long-term care facility, or doctor, for injuries resulting from the furnishing or performing of such services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2203(part).

Cross-References
Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.
Good Samaritan law, 27-1-714.
Validity of consent to medical treatment, Title 41, ch. 1, part 4.

50-33-104. Immunity of blood banks and tissue banks. No blood bank or tissue bank may be held liable in the absence of fault or negligence for injuries resulting from the injecting, transfusing, transplanting, or transferring of whole blood, plasma, blood products, blood derivatives, human tissue, organs, or bones supplied by any such blood bank or tissue bank to any hospital or physician if such blood products or tissue products have been tested by the latest testing procedures in accordance with recommendations of the American association of blood banks or the American association of tissue banks and by such test are not found to be dangerous to the health of the recipient of such blood products or tissue products.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2204; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 1987.

CHAPTER 34
FLOUR AND BREAD
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-34-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-801.

50-34-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-804(1).

50-34-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-804(4), (5).

50-34-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-804(6).

50-34-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-802(part).

50-34-106. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-802(part).

50-34-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 27-803(part).

50-34-108. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1971; Sec. 27-803, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 27-804, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 27-803(part), 27-804(2).

50-34-109. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-804(3).

50-34-110. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1995.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 274, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 27-805.

CHAPTER 35
IMPORTED MEATS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-35-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1981.
History: En. 27-320 by Sec. 3, Ch. 415, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-320.

50-35-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1981.
History: En. 27-318 by Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-318(part).

50-35-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1981.
History: En. 27-318 by Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-318(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1979.

50-35-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1981.
History: En. 27-319 by Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-319; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 278, L. 1979.

50-35-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1981.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 278, L. 1979.

CHAPTER 36
MATTRESSES — SHODDY CONTROL
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-36-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 114, Ch. 197, L. 1967; Sec. 69-4701, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(2), 69-4701.

50-36-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 117, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4704.

50-36-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 118, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 107 and 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4705.

50-36-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4702.

50-36-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 116, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4703.

50-36-106. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4706.

50-36-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 120, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4707.

CHAPTER 37
FIREWORKS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-37-101. Fireworks defined.
50-37-102. Where chapter not to apply.
50-37-103. Unlawful sale, transportation, or use of fireworks.
50-37-104. Lawful sales or uses of fireworks — "no smoking" sign — wholesaler's permit.
50-37-105. Permissible fireworks.
50-37-106. Sale of fireworks restricted to certain dates.
50-37-107. Supervised public display of fireworks authorized.
50-37-108. General liability insurance required for public display.
50-37-109. Confiscation.
50-37-110. Penalties.

Chapter Cross-References

Municipal power to regulate bonfires, fireworks, explosives, and inflammable materials, 7-33-4205, 7-33-4206.
Unlawful sale of fireworks, 45-5-623.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-37-101. Fireworks defined. The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance, combination of substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation and includes sky rockets, roman candles, daygo bombs, blank cartridges, toy cannons, toy canes, or toy guns in which explosives other than toy paper caps are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel them, firecrackers, torpedoes, sparklers or other fireworks of like construction, any fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound, or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(part).

50-37-102. Where chapter not to apply. (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the sale of any kind of fireworks to a person holding a permit issued under 50-37-107 at the display covered by such permits, the use of fireworks by railroads or other transportation agencies for signal purposes or illumination or when used in quarrying or blasting or other industrial use, or the sale or use of blank cartridges for a show or theater, for signal or ceremonial purposes in athletics or sports, or for use by military organizations or organizations composed of veterans of the United States armed forces.

(2) This chapter does not apply to toy paper caps containing less than one-fourth of a grain of explosive composition per cap, to the manufacture, storage, sale, or use of signals necessary for the safe operation of railroads or other classes of public or private transportation, to the military or naval forces of the United States or this state, to peace officers, or to the sale or use of blank cartridges for ceremonial, theatrical, or athletic events.

(3) Nothing in this chapter authorizes the sale of fireworks in a city or town that has banned the sale of fireworks within the city or town as authorized in 7-33-4206.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1959; Sec. 69-2704, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 69-2701, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(part), 69-2704; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Municipal power to regulate fireworks, 7-33-4206.

50-37-103. Unlawful sale, transportation, or use of fireworks. (1) It is unlawful to possess, sell, transport, or use any fireworks within the state except as provided in this chapter.

(2) It is unlawful for an individual under the age of 18 to possess for sale, sell, or offer for sale within the state permissible fireworks enumerated in 50-37-105.

(3) It is unlawful for a wholesaler to sell or offer for sale within the state fireworks without a current fireworks wholesaler permit or in violation of 50-37-105. It is lawful for a wholesaler, however, to transport fireworks within Montana for sale outside of the state.

(4) It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale fireworks as defined in 50-37-101 or permissible fireworks as enumerated in 50-37-105 by mail order solicitation.

(5) It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale fireworks as defined in 50-37-101 or permissible fireworks as enumerated in 50-37-105 within 300 feet of a hospital or church.

(6) It is unlawful for an individual, firm, partnership, or corporation to discharge or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics, fireworks as defined in 50-37-101, or permissible fireworks as enumerated in 50-37-105:

(a) within the exterior boundaries of a state forest, state park, or state recreation area;

(b) within 100 feet of a fireworks retail sales location;

(c) from, inside, or toward a motor vehicle; or

(d) in the vicinity of another person or group of people or any animal in a manner likely to expose them to the risk of injury.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(1), (5), (6), (8); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 598, L. 1985.

Cross-References

State parks, Title 23, ch. 1, part 1.

Unlawful sale of fireworks, 45-5-623.

50-37-104. Lawful sales or uses of fireworks — "no smoking" sign — wholesaler's permit. (1) Subject to subsection (2), it is lawful for an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or association to possess for sale, sell or offer for sale at retail, or use within the state the permissible fireworks enumerated in 50-37-105. At any place where permissible fireworks are sold or displayed, a sign reading "NO SMOKING" must be posted in letters at least 4 inches in height where customers are most likely to read it.

(2) Before a fireworks wholesaler may lawfully possess for sale, offer for sale, or sell within the state the permissible fireworks enumerated in 50-37-105, the wholesaler shall obtain a fireworks wholesaler permit from the department of labor and industry.

(3) A person making application for a fireworks wholesaler permit shall:

(a) pay an application fee to the department of labor and industry, which must be set by the department of labor and industry commensurate with costs; and

(b) furnish proof under oath, on a form provided by the department, that person:

(i) is at least 18 years of age;

(ii) is of good moral character; and

(iii) has not been convicted of a crime involving the use, possession, or sale of fireworks.

(4) The department of labor and industry shall adopt rules implementing this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 598, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Department of Labor and Industry, Title 2, ch. 15, part 17.

50-37-105. Permissible fireworks. Permissible fireworks include and are limited to those that meet the definition of consumer fireworks as provided in 27 CFR 555.11 and that comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the U.S. consumer product safety commission, as set forth in 16 CFR, parts 1500 and 1507.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(4); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 598, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 2021.

50-37-106. Sale of fireworks restricted to certain dates. A person, firm, or corporation may offer permissible fireworks, as defined in 50-37-105, of any kind for sale at retail only during the following periods:

(1) June 24 through July 5; and

(2) December 29 through December 31.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2701(7); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2003.

50-37-107. Supervised public display of fireworks authorized. (1) The state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice or the governing body of a city, town, or county may, under reasonable rules adopted by them, grant permits for supervised public displays of fireworks to be held by municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, and other organizations or groups of individuals.

(2) Each display must:

(a) be handled by a competent operator, who must be approved by the state fire prevention and investigation section or the governing body of the city, town, or county in which the display is to be held; and

(b) be located, discharged, or fired as, in the opinion of the state fire prevention and investigation section or the chief of the local governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, or other officer designated by the governing body of the city, town, or county after proper inspection, not to be hazardous to persons or property.

(3) Application for permits must be made in writing at least 15 days prior to the date of the display.

(4) After the privilege has been granted, sales, possession, use, and distribution of fireworks for the display are lawful for that purpose only.

(5) A permit granted under this section is not transferable.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2702; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
State fire prevention and investigation program, 2-15-2005; Title 50, ch. 3.

50-37-108. General liability insurance required for public display. The state fire prevention and investigation section or the governing body of the city, town, or county shall require a person planning a public display of fireworks to provide proof of general liability insurance in a reasonable amount as determined by rules adopted by the department of justice.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 143, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2703; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 387, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Indemnity, Title 28, ch. 11, part 3.

50-37-109. Confiscation. A representative of the state fire prevention and investigation section or any sheriff, police officer, constable, officer of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, or firewarden shall seize, take, remove, or cause to be removed at the expense of the owner all stocks of fireworks or combustibles offered or exposed for sale, stored, or held in violation of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 143, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2705; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, 2-15-2005; Title 50, ch. 3.

50-37-110. Penalties. Any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 or, in the case of individuals, the members of a partnership, and the responsible officers and agents of an association or corporation, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not less than 30 days or more than 6 months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 143, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 273, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2706.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.

CHAPTER 38
EXPLOSIVES
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Storage (Repealed)

Part 3 — Sale and Transportation (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-38-101. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2786, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2786, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1901.

50-38-102. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2804, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2804, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1919.

50-38-103. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1902(part).

50-38-104. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1902(part).

50-38-105. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2803, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2803, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1918.

50-38-106. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 714, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8552, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2813, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2813, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1928.

50-38-107. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 715, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8553, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2814, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2814, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1929; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 198, L. 1981.

50-38-108. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2805, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2805, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1920.

Part 2
Storage
(Repealed)

50-38-201. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2797, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2797, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1912.

50-38-202. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2799, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2799, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1914.

50-38-203. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 708, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8546, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2807, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2807, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1922.

50-38-204. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 709, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8547, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2808, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2808, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1923.

50-38-205. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2791, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2791, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1906(part).

50-38-206. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2791, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2791, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1906(part).

50-38-207. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2793, R.C.M. 1921; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1908.

50-38-208 through 50-38-210 reserved.

50-38-211. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1903(part).

50-38-212. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1903(part).

50-38-213. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2788, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1903(part).

50-38-214. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2790, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2790, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1905.

50-38-215. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2789, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2789, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1904.

50-38-216 through 50-38-220 reserved.

50-38-221. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1907(part).

50-38-222. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1907(a).

50-38-223. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2792, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1907(b).

50-38-224 through 50-38-230 reserved.

50-38-231. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1909(part).

50-38-232. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1909(part).

50-38-233. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1909(part).

50-38-234. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1909(part).

50-38-235. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1909(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 1983.

Part 3
Sale and Transportation
(Repealed)

50-38-301. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 707, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8545, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2806, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2806, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1921.

50-38-302. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2787, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1902(part).

50-38-303. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 246, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 8550, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2811, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2811, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1926.

50-38-304. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 711, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8549, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2810, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2810, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1925; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

CHAPTER 39
FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Part 1 — Regulation of Sales, Installation, and Servicing

50-39-101. License and endorsements required.
50-39-102. Application for license and endorsements.
50-39-103. Inspections, examinations, and hearings authorized.
50-39-104. Repealed.
50-39-105. Repealed.
50-39-106. Repealed.
50-39-107. Rulemaking authority.
50-39-108. Definitions.

Part 2 — Standardization (Repealed)

Part 1
Regulation of Sales, Installation, and Servicing

50-39-101. License and endorsements required. (1) A person or entity shall obtain a license from the department of labor and industry before engaging in the business of servicing fire extinguishers or before engaging in the business of selling, servicing, or installing fire alarm systems, special agent fire suppression systems, or fire extinguishing systems. Each individual, except an apprentice, employed by the licensee to perform services under the license shall obtain from the department an endorsement to sell, service, or install:

(a) fire alarm systems;

(b) special agent fire suppression systems; or

(c) fire extinguishing systems.

(2) The license and endorsement or endorsements must be prominently displayed at the business premises, and copies must be carried by the person conducting each installation or servicing and must be shown to anyone who requests to see them.

(3) It is a misdemeanor to knowingly or purposely service a fire extinguisher or sell, service, or install a fire alarm system, special agent fire suppression system, or fire extinguishing system without the required license and endorsement.

(4) This chapter may not be construed to prohibit a licensed electrician, practicing within the scope of practice of electricians, as provided in Title 37, chapter 68, from installing components of fire protection equipment if the installation is inspected and approved by an individual endorsed to sell, service, or install fire protection equipment.

History: En. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202.1(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, 2-15-2005; Title 50, ch. 3.

50-39-102. Application for license and endorsements. (1) An application for a license and any endorsements must be made on a form prescribed by the department of labor and industry.

(2) The department shall issue a license and endorsement to an applicant who:

(a) submits satisfactory proof that the applicant is properly equipped and staffed to provide the sales or services to be licensed and endorsed; and

(b) submits satisfactory proof that the applicant is insured to engage in the business covered by the license and endorsement or endorsements.

(3) The department shall:

(a) issue an endorsement to an applicant who scores a passing grade on an examination devised or approved by the department;

(b) issue an endorsement to an applicant who has been issued a letter of certification, specific to the endorsement being sought, from any national testing agency approved by the department; and

(c) renew the endorsement at the time intervals prescribed by the department and upon payment of the endorsement fee and submission of satisfactory proof that the endorsee has completed continuing education, training, or testing required by the department.

History: En. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202.1(4)(a); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 492, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, 2-15-2005; Title 50, ch. 3.

50-39-103. Inspections, examinations, and hearings authorized. When requested by the department of labor and industry, the department of justice shall conduct inspections of the applicant's business facilities and shall report to the department of labor and industry the results of its inspection. The department of labor and industry may consider the inspection report and conduct examinations or hearings to determine an applicant's qualifications.

History: En. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202.1(part); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 162, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-39-104. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202.1(part); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-39-105. Repealed. Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

History: En. 82-1202.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1202.1(4)(c), (4)(d); amd. Secs. 13, 38, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 1993.

50-39-106. Repealed. Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-39-107. Rulemaking authority. The department of labor and industry may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-39-108. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Apprentice" means a person who is working in a training capacity to service or install fire alarm systems, special agent fire suppression systems, or fire extinguishing systems and who is studying in accordance with a program approved by the department of labor and industry.

(2) "Endorsement" means a document, issued by the department of labor and industry to an individual who has met qualifications, that authorizes the individual to sell, service, and install fire alarm systems, special agent fire suppression systems, or fire extinguishing systems.

(3) "Entity" means any business, partnership, sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, firm, governmental organization, fire agency, or any other business association.

(4) (a) "Fire alarm system" means a combination of approved compatible devices with the necessary electrical interconnection and energy to produce an alarm signaling the event of fire or system activation.

(b) The term does not include single station smoke or heat detectors.

(5) "Fire extinguisher" means a portable device containing an extinguishing agent that can be expelled under pressure for the purpose of suppressing or extinguishing a fire.

(6) "Fire extinguishing system" means a fire sprinkler system designed in accordance with nationally recognized standards that consists of an assembly of piping or conduits that conveys water, foam, or air with or without other agents to dispersal openings or devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire and to provide protection from exposure to fire or the products of combustion. The term includes underground and overhead piping, ponds, tanks, pumps, extra or special hazard applications, and other related components or devices necessary for water supplies.

(7) "Inspection" means the periodic examination of premises, equipment, or procedures or of a licensed or endorsed person or entity to determine whether the person's or entity's business or profession is being conducted in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare. The term includes the inquiry, analysis, audit, or other pursuit of information, with respect to a written complaint or other information before the department of labor and industry, that is carried out for the purpose of assisting the department of labor and industry in determining:

(a) whether a person has violated a provision of law justifying discipline against the person;

(b) whether a license should be granted or denied; or

(c) whether the department of labor and industry should seek an injunction against unlicensed practice.

(8) (a) "Install" means the technical work that may be performed only by an endorsed individual or an apprentice in the assembly of a fire alarm system, special agent fire suppression system, or fire extinguishing system.

(b) The term does not include the delivery of supplies or the offsite cutting or threading of pipe.

(c) The term does include the following tasks:

(i) inspection of job sites to determine the presence of obstructions and to ascertain that holes will not cause structural weaknesses;

(ii) determination of the course or plan of installation;

(iii) any job site bending of pipe or electrical conduit as part of the installation;

(iv) job site assembly and installation of metal or nonmetal pipe fittings, including but not limited to those made of brass, copper, lead, glass, and plastic;

(v) job site assembly and installation of wiring systems;

(vi) joining of piping by any means, including pipes joined by threaded, caulked, wiped, soldered, brazed, fused, or cemented joints;

(vii) securing of pipe, wire, or electrical conduit to the structure by any means, including but not limited to clamps, brackets, hangers, and welds; and

(viii) testing the installed system for electrical or mechanical malfunctions.

(9) "License" means the document issued by the department of labor and industry that authorizes a person or entity to engage in the business of servicing fire extinguishers or to engage in the business of selling, servicing, or installing fire alarm systems, special agent fire suppression systems, or fire extinguishing systems.

(10) "Sell", "sale", and associated words mean offering or contracting to transfer, lease, or rent any merchandise, equipment, or service at retail to the public or any member of the public for an agreed sum of money or other consideration.

(11) (a) "Service", when referring to portable fire extinguishers and fire extinguisher cylinders, means maintenance and includes breakdown for replacement of parts or for agent, repair, recharging, or hydrostatic testing.

(b) When referring to alarm systems, fire extinguishing systems, and fire suppression systems, the term means maintenance and testing required to keep the protective signaling, extinguishing, and suppression system and its component parts in an operative condition at all times, together with replacement of the system or its component parts with listed or approved parts when for any reason they become undependable, defective, or inoperative.

(c) The term does not include resetting manual alarm systems that may be reset by a properly trained building owner or the owner's designated representative.

(12) "Special agent fire suppression system" means an approved system and components that require individual engineering in accordance with manufacturer specifications and includes dry chemical, carbon dioxide, halogenated, gaseous agent, foam, and wet chemical systems. The term includes a preengineered system but does not include a fire extinguishing system.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 165, 221(1), Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Part 2
Standardization
(Repealed)

50-39-201. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2762.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1233.

50-39-202. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2762.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1234.

50-39-203. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 1929; re-en. 2762.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1235.

CHAPTER 40
SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Part 1 — Montana Clean Indoor Air Act

50-40-101. Short title.
50-40-102. Intent — purpose.
50-40-103. Definitions.
50-40-104. Smoking in enclosed public places prohibited — notice to public — places where prohibition inapplicable.
50-40-105. Repealed.
50-40-106. Repealed.
50-40-107. Repealed.
50-40-108. Enforcement.
50-40-109. Repealed.
50-40-110. Rulemaking required.
50-40-111 through 50-40-114 reserved.
50-40-115. Penalties.
50-40-116 through 50-40-119 reserved.
50-40-120. Terminated.

Part 2 — Government Offices and Work Areas

50-40-201. Local government buildings — smoking prohibited.
50-40-202. Repealed.
50-40-203. Repealed.
50-40-204. Repealed.
50-40-205. Repealed.
50-40-206. Repealed.
50-40-207. Repealed.

Part 1
Montana Clean Indoor Air Act

Part Cross-References

Regulation of cigarette marketing, Title 16, ch. 10.
Taxation of tobacco products, Title 16, ch. 11.
Youth Access to Tobacco Production Central Act, Title 16, ch. 11, part 3.

50-40-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Clean Indoor Air Act of 1979".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 1979.

50-40-102. Intent — purpose. The legislature finds and declares that the purposes of this part are as follows:

(1) to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment;

(2) to recognize the right of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air; and

(3) to recognize that the need to breathe smoke-free air has priority over the desire to smoke.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

50-40-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bar" means an establishment with a license issued pursuant to Title 16, chapter 4, that is devoted to serving alcoholic beverages for consumption by guests or patrons on the premises and in which the serving of food is only incidental to the service of alcoholic beverages or gambling operations. The term includes but is not limited to taverns, night clubs, cocktail lounges, and casinos.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Enclosed public place" means an indoor area, room, or vehicle that the general public is allowed to enter or that serves as a place of work, including but not limited to the following:

(a) restaurants;

(b) stores;

(c) public and private office buildings and offices, including all office buildings and offices of political subdivisions, as provided for in 50-40-201, and state government;

(d) trains, buses, and other forms of public transportation;

(e) health care facilities;

(f) auditoriums, arenas, and assembly facilities;

(g) meeting rooms open to the public;

(h) bars;

(i) community college facilities;

(j) facilities of the Montana university system; and

(k) public schools, as provided for in 20-1-220 and 50-40-104.

(4) "Establishment" means an enterprise under one roof that serves the public and for which a single person, agency, corporation, or legal entity is responsible.

(5) "Incidental to the service of alcoholic beverages or gambling operations" means that at least 60% of the business's annual gross income comes from the sale of alcoholic beverages or gambling receipts, or both.

(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, political subdivision, or other entity.

(7) "Place of work" means an enclosed room where one or more individuals work.

(8) "Smoking" or "to smoke" includes the act of lighting, smoking, or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any smokable product and includes the use of marijuana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 312, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 49, I.M. No. 190, approved Nov. 3, 2020.

50-40-104. Smoking in enclosed public places prohibited — notice to public — places where prohibition inapplicable. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, smoking in an enclosed public place is prohibited.

(2) The proprietor or manager of an establishment containing enclosed public places shall post a sign in a conspicuous place at all public entrances to the establishment stating, in a manner that can be easily read and understood, that smoking in the enclosed public place is prohibited.

(3) The proprietor or manager of an intrastate bus that is not chartered shall prohibit smoking in all parts of the bus.

(4) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to the following places, whether or not the public is allowed access to those places:

(a) a private residence unless it is used for any of the following purposes, in which case the prohibition in subsection (1) applies:

(i) a family day-care home or group day-care home, as defined in 52-2-703 and licensed pursuant to Title 52, chapter 2, part 7;

(ii) an adult foster care home, as defined in 50-5-101 and licensed pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5; or

(iii) a health care facility, as defined in 50-5-101 and licensed pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5;

(b) a private motor vehicle;

(c) school property in which smoking is allowed pursuant to the exception in 20-1-220;

(d) a hotel or motel room designated as a smoking room and rented to a guest; however, not more than 35% of the rooms available to rent to guests may be designated as smoking rooms; and

(e) a site that is being used in connection with the practice of cultural activities by American Indians that is in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996 and 1996a.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 460, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 1989; (4)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 281, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

50-40-105. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1991.

50-40-106. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 368, L. 1979.

50-40-107. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 539, L. 1991.

50-40-108. Enforcement. The provisions of this part must be supervised and enforced by the department and the department's designees, local boards of health, and the boards' designees under the direction of the department.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 368, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-40-109. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 460, L. 1981.

50-40-110. Rulemaking required. The department shall adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

50-40-111 through 50-40-114 reserved.

50-40-115. Penalties. (1) It is unlawful for a person to smoke in any area where smoking is prohibited under 20-1-220 or 50-40-104. A person who violates 20-1-220 or 50-40-104 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not less than $25 or more than $100.

(2) A person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment and who fails to comply with the provisions of Title 50, chapter 40, is guilty of a misdemeanor after a third violation within a 3-year period and shall be warned, reprimanded, or punished as follows:

(a) a warning for the first violation;
(b) a written reprimand for a second violation; and
(c) within any 3-year period, a fine of:
(i) $100 for a third violation;
(ii) $200 for a fourth violation; and
(iii) $500 for a fifth or subsequent violation.

(3) Penalties imposed under this section may not be considered by the department of revenue for the purposes of 16-4-401 or by the department of justice for the purposes of 23-5-119, 23-5-177, or 23-5-611(1)(a) or (1)(c).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

50-40-116 through 50-40-119 reserved.

50-40-120. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

Part 2
Government Offices and Work Areas

Part Cross-References

Possession or consumption of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products by persons under 18 years of age prohibited — unlawful attempt to purchase — penalties, 45-5-637.

50-40-201. Local government buildings — smoking prohibited. (1) In all parts of buildings maintained by a political subdivision, smoking is prohibited as provided in this section.

(2) Buildings owned and occupied by a political subdivision only and buildings leased and occupied by a political subdivision only must be smoke-free. In a building leased and occupied by a political subdivision and another entity, the on-the-scene manager of the political subdivision activity located in the building shall make the portions of the building occupied by the political subdivision activity smoke-free and is encouraged to work with the building owner or other tenants to make the building smoke-free.

(3) Restrictions contained in this section and imposed by the governing body apply uniformly to the employees of the political subdivision and the public.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 539, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 268, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

50-40-202. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 539, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 2001.

50-40-203. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 2001.**

50-40-204. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 271, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 539, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 389, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 308, L. 1995.**

50-40-205. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 271, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 539, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 389, L. 1993.**

50-40-206. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 271, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 422, L. 1997.**

50-40-207. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 268, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 2001.**

CHAPTER 41
LAETRILE
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-41-101. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-102. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-103. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-104. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-105. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-106. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

50-41-107. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 109, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 454, L. 1979.**

CHAPTER 42
DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE (DMSO)

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-42-101. DMSO defined.
50-42-102. DMSO authorized.
50-42-103. Hospital not to interfere.
50-42-104. Health care facility nonliability.
50-42-105. Physician not subject to disciplinary action.
50-42-106. DMSO not endorsed.
50-42-107. DMSO optional.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Drugs and devices, Title 50, ch. 31, part 3.

50-42-101. DMSO defined. As used in this part, "DMSO" means dimethyl sulfoxide.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

50-42-102. DMSO authorized. The manufacture, sale, possession, and distribution of DMSO are lawful within this state. However, distribution or sale of DMSO for human use must be by prescription in accordance with 50-31-307. A person who violates this section is subject to the penalties provided for in 50-31-506.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

50-42-103. Hospital not to interfere. A hospital or health care facility may not interfere with the physician-patient relationship by restricting or forbidding the use of DMSO when requested by a patient and prescribed or administered by a physician.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Health care facility and hospital defined, 50-5-101.

50-42-104. Health care facility nonliability. No hospital, health care facility, pharmacy, or employee thereof shall be held liable for the administration of DMSO to any person at the direction of a physician licensed in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

50-42-105. Physician not subject to disciplinary action. A physician may not be subjected to disciplinary action by the board of medical examiners for prescribing or administering DMSO to a patient under the physician's care as an adjunct to recognized, customary, or accepted modes of therapy in the treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness, or physical condition.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 333, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1850, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Board of Medical Examiners, Title 37, ch. 3, part 2.

50-42-106. DMSO not endorsed. This part is not an endorsement of DMSO for the treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness, or physical condition.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

50-42-107. DMSO optional. This part does not require:

(1) a physician, pharmacist, pharmacy, manufacturer, or distributor to manufacture, sell, or distribute DMSO; or

(2) a physician to prescribe DMSO for any patient.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 333, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Regulation of practice of medicine, Title 37, ch. 3.
Regulation of practice of pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7.

CHAPTER 43

CALCIUM-EAP, HARNOSAL, AND PHOSETAMIN

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-43-101. Purpose.
50-43-102. Definitions.
50-43-103. Authorization of medication.
50-43-104. Health care facility may not interfere.
50-43-105. Health care facility immunity.
50-43-106. Physician not subject to disciplinary action.
50-43-107. Medication not endorsed — permitted as dietary supplement.
50-43-108. Medication not required.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Regulation of practice of medicine, Title 37, ch. 3.
Regulation of practice of pharmacy, Title 37, ch. 7.

50-43-101. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to provide for the continuation of medication initiated by a physician for multiple sclerosis. This medication includes the substances described in this part and has been found to be effective in alleviating the symptoms of multiple sclerosis.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-102. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:
(1) "Calcium-EAP" means a calcium salt of the monoester (2-ethylamine) of phosphoric acid.
(2) "Harnosal" means a compound of sulfamethizole and sulfaethidole. A 500-milligram tablet contains 350 milligrams of sulfamethizole and 150 milligrams of sulfaethidole.
(3) "Phosetamin" means a compound of potassium salt of the monoester (2-ethylamine) of phosphoric acid, magnesium salt of the monoester (2-ethylamine) of phosphoric acid, and calcium salt of the monoester (2-ethylamine) of phosphoric acid. A 350-milligram tablet contains 145.8 milligrams of the potassium salt, 145.8 milligrams of the magnesium salt, and 58.4 milligrams of the calcium salt.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-103. Authorization of medication. The manufacture, sale, possession, and distribution of calcium-EAP, harnosal, and phosetamin to provide for the continuation of medication initiated by a physician for multiple sclerosis are lawful within this state.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-104. Health care facility may not interfere. A health care facility may not interfere with the physician-patient relationship by restricting or forbidding the use of calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin when prescribed or administered by a physician.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-105. Health care facility immunity. No health care facility or employee thereof may be held liable for the administration of calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin to any person.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-106. Physician not subject to disciplinary action. A physician may not be disciplined by the board of medical examiners for prescribing or administering calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin to a patient under the physician's care in the treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness, or physical condition.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 430, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1851, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-43-107. Medication not endorsed — permitted as dietary supplement. This part:
(1) is not an endorsement of calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin for the treatment of any malignancy, disease, illness, or physical condition; and
(2) does not prohibit use of calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin as a dietary supplement.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

50-43-108. Medication not required. This part does not require:
(1) a physician to prescribe calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin for any patient; or
(2) a physician, pharmacist, pharmacy, manufacturer, or distributor to manufacture, sell, or distribute calcium-EAP, harnosal, or phosetamin.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 430, L. 1987.**

CHAPTER 44
TREATMENT OF CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Renal Disease Treatment Program (Repealed)

Part 1
Renal Disease Treatment Program
(Repealed)

50-44-101. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 486, L. 2009.

History: En. 71-2501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2501; Sec. 53-6-201, MCA 1989; redes. 50-44-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

50-44-102. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 486, L. 2009.

History: En. 71-2502 by Sec. 2, Ch. 453, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2502; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 692, L. 1983; Sec. 53-6-202, MCA 1989; redes. 50-44-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 313, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1999.

50-44-103. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 486, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 2005.

CHAPTER 45
RESERVED

CHAPTER 46
USE OF MARIJUANA FOR DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS
(Repealed and Terminated)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Use — Limitations (Repealed)

Part 3 — Montana Medical Marijuana Act (Repealed and Terminated)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-46-101. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

50-46-102. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 2, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 2009.

50-46-103. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 156, L. 2009.

Part 2
Use — Limitations
(Repealed)

50-46-201. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 156, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

50-46-202. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 5, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

50-46-203 and 50-46-204 reserved.

50-46-205. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 6, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 156, L. 2009.

50-46-206. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 156, L. 2009.

50-46-207. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 8, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

50-46-208 and 50-46-209 reserved.

50-46-210. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 9, I.M. No. 148, approved Nov. 2, 2004.

Part 3
Montana Medical Marijuana Act (Repealed and Terminated)

50-46-301. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016.

50-46-302. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 411, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-303. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 411, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 555, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-304. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 292, L. 2019, and Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2019.

50-46-305. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-306 reserved.

50-46-307. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 8, 9, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-308. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 10, 11, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-309. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Secs. 12, 13, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-310. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-311. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 22, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 411, L. 2019.

50-46-312. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 23, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 411, L. 2019.

50-46-313. Terminated. Sec. 39, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-314 through 50-46-316 reserved.

50-46-317. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 10, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-318. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 11, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016.

50-46-319. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 12, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 18, 19, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-320. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 13, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-321 through 50-46-325 reserved.

50-46-326. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 411, L. 2019.

50-46-327. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 14, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-328. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 408, L. 2017.

50-46-329. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 15, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 411, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

50-46-330. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 16, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 24, 25, Ch. 292, L. 2019.

50-46-331. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 17, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016.

50-46-332. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

50-46-333 through 50-46-338 reserved.

50-46-339. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 18, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016.

50-46-340. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

50-46-341. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 19, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 505, L. 2021.

50-46-342. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 419, L. 2011.

50-46-343. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

50-46-344. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 20, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 28, 29, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 411, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 505, L. 2021.

50-46-345. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 24, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 408, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-346. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

50-46-347. Repealed. Sec. 104, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 292, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 47
RESERVED

CHAPTER 48
LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF TATTOOING AND BODY-PIERCING ESTABLISHMENTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-48-101. Purpose.
50-48-102. Definitions.
50-48-103. Rulemaking authority.
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50-48-206. Health officers to make investigations and inspections — free access.
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50-48-209. State special revenue account.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-48-101. Purpose. The regulation of tattooing and body-piercing establishments is required to protect the public health and safety.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Body piercing" means penetrating the skin to make a hole, mark, or scar that is generally permanent in nature.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Establishment" means either a body-piercing operation, a tattooing operation, or a combination of both operations in a multiple-type establishment.

(4) "Local board of health" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health provided for in Title 50, chapter 2.

(5) "Local health officer" has the meaning provided in 50-1-101.

(6) "Multiple-type establishment" means an operation encompassing both body piercing and tattooing on the same premises and under the same management.

(7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity engaged in the business of operating, owning, or offering the services of body piercing or tattooing.

(8) "Regulatory authority" means the department of public health and human services, the local board of health, the local health officer, or the local sanitarian.

(9) (a) "Tattooing" means making permanent marks on the skin of a live human being by puncturing the skin and inserting indelible colors. The term includes imparting permanent makeup on the skin such as permanent lip coloring and permanent eyeliner.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) the practice of electrology as defined in 37-31-101; or

(ii) the use by a physician or medical professional who is licensed to practice in the state of Montana of colors, dyes, or pigments for the purpose of obscuring scar tissue or imparting color to the skin for cosmetic, medical, or figurative purposes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 150, L. 2007.

50-48-103. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt and enforce minimum safety and sanitation requirements for tattooing and body piercing, including rules to:

(1) set standards to ensure sanitation and safety in establishments to protect the public health and safety;

(2) license establishments;

(3) provide procedures for enforcement of the laws and rules relating to establishments, including implementing plans of correction;

(4) impose fees for licensure, inspection, enforcement, training, and administration.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-104 and 50-48-105 reserved.

50-48-106. Injunctions. A regulatory authority may bring an action for an injunction against any continued violation of this chapter or any rule adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-107. County attorney to prosecute violations. When a regulatory authority furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state where the violating establishment operates, the county attorney shall prosecute any person violating this chapter or any rule adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-108. Penalties — misdemeanor. A person who purposefully or knowingly violates any provision of this chapter or rules adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the person shall be fined:

(1) an amount of not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense;

(2) an amount of not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense; and

(3) an amount of not less than $200 and imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 90 days for the third and subsequent offenses.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-109. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred. (1) An establishment that violates this chapter or rules adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203 is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500 for each violation.

(2) An action to impose civil penalties under this section does not bar actions for injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-110. Costs and expenses — recovery by regulatory authority. In a civil action initiated by the regulatory authority under 50-48-106 or 50-48-109, the court may, by petition of the regulatory authority, order an establishment that is found to be in willful violation of this chapter or a rule adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203 to pay the costs of investigations and any other expenses incurred. These costs are limited to the direct costs of investigations and other expenses.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

Part 2
Licensing

50-48-201. License required — fees — application. (1) A person operating an establishment shall procure an annual license from the appropriate regulatory authority having jurisdiction. For each annual license, the regulatory authority shall collect a fee established by rule pursuant to 50-48-103 or 50-48-203.

(2) A separate license is required for each establishment operating on different premises.

(3) A person operating a multiple-type establishment shall procure separate licenses for body piercing and tattooing businesses.

(4) An application for a license must be made to the department on forms containing the information required by the department.

(5) Licenses are not transferable.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-202. Late fee — allocation of licensure and late fees. (1) A person operating an establishment who fails to renew a license issued by the department by the expiration date and who operates the establishment in the license year for which an annual renewal fee was not paid shall, upon renewal, pay to the department a late renewal fee of $25 in addition to the annual fee required by 50-48-201. Payment of the late renewal fee does not relieve the operator of responsibility for operating without a license.

(2) The department shall deposit the fees collected under 50-48-201 and subsection (1) of this section in the state special revenue account provided for in 50-48-209.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-203. Licensure and regulation by local boards of health. (1) A local board of health may implement its own licensure and regulatory program for tattooing and body-piercing establishments independent of that of the department. A local board of health's licensure and regulatory program must be operated in lieu of the department's licensure and regulatory program.

(2) Subject to the restrictions in 50-2-130, a local board of health that operates its own licensure and regulatory program pursuant to subsection (1) may adopt necessary regulations that are not less stringent than department rules adopted under 50-48-103. The rules may include:

(a) standards to ensure sanitation and safety in establishments to protect public health and safety;

(b) licensure of establishments;

(c) procedures for enforcement of the laws and rules relating to establishments, including the implementation of plans of correction; and

(d) fees that reflect and may not exceed the actual costs incurred for licensure, inspection, enforcement, training, and administration.

(3) The local board of health shall report annually to the department on the number of establishments that it licenses and regulates.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-204. Denial or cancellation of license by regulatory authority — multiple-type establishments. (1) The regulatory authority may deny or cancel a license it issues if it finds, after proper investigation, that the applicant or licensee is not in compliance with this chapter or a rule adopted under 50-48-103 or 50-48-203 and the applicant or licensee has failed or refused to remedy or correct the noncompliance or violation.

(2) When a multiple-type establishment is licensed, the denial or cancellation may affect both tattooing and body-piercing operations or only one of the operations, as determined by the regulatory authority.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-205. Notice and hearing required for license denial or cancellation. (1) A license may not be denied or canceled by the regulatory authority without delivery to the applicant or licensee of a written statement of the grounds for denial or cancellation and an opportunity for a hearing before the regulatory authority to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled.

(2) The applicant or licensee shall make a written request to the department for a hearing within 10 days after notice of the grounds for denial or cancellation has been received.

(3) The hearing conducted by the department must be held in accordance with the contested case procedures of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-206. Health officers to make investigations and inspections — free access. (1) State and local health officers or their designees shall conduct investigations and inspections of establishments.

(2) State and local health officers or their designees must be provided access to establishments at all reasonable hours for the purpose of conducting investigations and inspections as required under subsection (1).

(3) If a local board of health inspection and regulatory program is being operated in lieu of a department program, the local board of health and not the department has the duty and authority provided in this section.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

50-48-207 and 50-48-208 reserved.

50-48-209. State special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is allocated to the department to be used to administer the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under 50-48-103.
History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 386, L. 2005.

CHAPTER 49
FOOD AND NUTRITION

Part 1 — Montana Access to Food and Nutrition Act

50-49-101. Short title.
50-49-102. Purpose.
50-49-103. Definitions.
50-49-104. Repealed.
50-49-105. Repealed.
50-49-106. Gifts and grants.
50-49-107. Public health nutritionist — appointment and duties.
50-49-108. Repealed.

Part 2 — Montana Local Food Choice Act

50-49-201. Short title — purpose.
50-49-202. Definitions.
50-49-203. Exemptions from regulations — transactions — information required — exceptions.

Chapter Cross-References
Nutritionists, Title 37, ch. 25, part 1.
Montana Older Americans Act, Title 52, ch. 3, part 5.

Part 1
Montana Access to Food and Nutrition Act

50-49-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Access to Food and Nutrition Act".
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 569, L. 1991.

50-49-102. Purpose. It is the policy of the state of Montana that all citizens should have access to food programs and nutrition services to prevent any needy citizen from experiencing hunger and poor nutrition and their impact on physical and mental health.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 1991.

50-49-103. Definitions. For purposes of this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Food programs and nutrition services" means public or private programs to provide food and nutrition assistance to persons who have need. The term includes but is not limited to the food stamp program, food programs for the elderly, and supplemental food programs for women, infants, and children.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 569, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 314, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

50-49-104. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 569, L. 1991.

50-49-105. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 569, L. 1991.

50-49-106. Gifts and grants. The department may accept contributions, gifts, and grants to fund its activities.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 569, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

50-49-107. Public health nutritionist — appointment and duties. The director of the department shall appoint a registered dietitian as a public health nutritionist. The appointment of the public health nutritionist may not be required unless funding for the position is available. The public health nutritionist shall:

(1) establish a program of public education and technical assistance for programs that provide food assistance; and

(2) provide technical assistance to the governor's advisory council on aging; and

(3) provide technical assistance to health care and public health agencies.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 569, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

50-49-108. Repealed. Sec. 74, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 569, L. 1991.

Part 2
Montana Local Food Choice Act

50-49-201. Short title — purpose. (1) This part may be cited as the "Montana Local Food Choice Act".

(2) The purpose of this part is to allow for the sale and consumption of homemade food and food products and to encourage the expansion of agricultural sales by ranches, farms, and home-based producers and the accessibility of homemade food and food products to informed end consumers by:

(a) facilitating the purchase and consumption of fresh and local agricultural products;

(b) enhancing the agricultural economy; and

(c) providing Montana citizens with unimpeded access to healthy food from known sources.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

50-49-202. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Deliver" means to transfer a product as a result of a transaction between a producer and an informed end consumer. The action may be performed by the producer or the producer's designated agent at a farm, ranch, home, office, traditional community social event, other private property, or another location agreed to between the producer or agent and the informed end consumer.

(2) "Home consumption" means:

(a) the consumption of food or a food product in a private home; or

(b) the consumption of food or a food product from a private home.

(3) "Homemade" means food or a food product that is prepared in a private home and that is not licensed, permitted, certified, packaged, labeled, or inspected per any official regulations.

(4) "Informed end consumer" means a person who is the last person to purchase a product, does not resell the product, and has been informed that the product is not licensed, permitted, certified, packaged, labeled, or inspected per any official regulations.

(5) (a) "Producer" means a person who harvests, produces, or prepares a product that may be consumed as homemade food or a homemade food product. The term includes a person operating a small dairy.

(b) The term does not include the entities listed in 50-49-203(1)(c).

(6) "Small dairy" means a place where no more than 5 lactating cows, 10 lactating goats, or 10 lactating sheep are kept for producing milk.

(7) "Traditional community social event" means an event at which people gather as part of a community for the benefit of those gathering or for the benefit of the community, including but not limited to a:

(a) wedding;

(b) funeral;

(c) church or religious social;

(d) school event;

(e) farmer's market;
(f) potluck;
(g) neighborhood gathering;
(h) club meeting or social; or
(i) youth or adult outdoor club or sporting event.

(8) "Transaction" means an exchange of buying and selling, including the transfer of a product by delivery.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 347, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-49-203. Exemptions from regulations — transactions — information required — exceptions. (1) (a) A state agency or an agency of a political subdivision of the state may not require licensure, permitting, certification, packaging, labeling, testing, sampling, or inspection that pertains to the preparation, serving, use, consumption, delivery, or storage of homemade food or a homemade food product under this part.

(b) This part does not preclude an agency from providing assistance, consultation, or inspection requested by a producer.

(c) A producer is not:

(i) a retail food establishment, a cottage food operation, or a temporary food establishment, as each term is defined in 50-50-102;

(ii) a wholesale food manufacturing establishment, as defined in 50-57-102; or

(iii) a dairy or a manufactured dairy products plant, as defined in 81-22-101.

(d) A producer is not subject to labeling, licensure, inspection, sanitation, or other requirements or standards of 30-12-301; Title 50, chapters 31 and 50; or Title 81, chapters 2, 9, 21, 22, or 23.

(2) Transactions pursuant to this part:

(a) must be directly between the producer and the informed end consumer;

(b) must be only for home consumption or consumption at a traditional community social event;

(c) must occur only in this state and may not involve interstate commerce; and

(d) are not subject to regulation by a board of county commissioners pursuant to 7-21-3301.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (7), a producer shall inform an end consumer that any homemade food or homemade food product sold through ranch, farm, or home-based sales pursuant to this part has not been licensed, permitted, certified, packaged, labeled, or inspected per any official regulations.

(4) Except for raw, unprocessed fruit and vegetables, homemade food may not be sold or used in a retail food establishment, as defined in 50-50-102, unless the food has been licensed, permitted, certified, packaged, labeled, and inspected as required by law.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6) and pursuant to this part, a producer may donate homemade food or homemade food products to a traditional community social event.

(6) A producer may not donate milk to a traditional community social event.

(7) (a) Except for a temporary food establishment subject to 50-50-120, meat or meat products processed at a state-licensed establishment or a federally approved meat establishment, by the producer, or by any third party may not be used in preparation of homemade food that is sold pursuant to a transaction provided for in this part.

(b) Subsection (7)(a) does not apply to a producer who slaughters fewer than 1,000 poultry birds a year except that the producer is subject to the requirements of 9 CFR 381.10(c) and the recordkeeping requirements of 9 CFR 381.175. The poultry or poultry products may not be adulterated or misbranded.

(8) A small dairy shall:

(a) sample, test, or retest every 6 months for standard plate count, coliform count, and somatic cell count of milk or cream sold as homemade food pursuant to this part;

(b) sample, test, or retest every year for brucellosis for every lactating cow, lactating goat, or lactating sheep that is part of the small dairy; and

(c) maintain records for 2 years of all previous samples, tests, or retests, which must be provided to the department of livestock if the department suspects the small dairy is causing a foodborne illness.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 320, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 347, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 347, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 50
RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

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50-50-103. Department authorized to adopt rules — advisory council.
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50-50-107. County attorney to prosecute violations.
50-50-108. Violation — misdemeanor.
50-50-109. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred.
50-50-110. Costs and expenses — recovery by department or county.
50-50-111 through 50-50-115 reserved.
50-50-116. Conditions for cottage food operation exemption from licensure and routine facility inspection.
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50-50-120. Temporary food establishment requirements.
50-50-121. Requirements for farmer's markets.
50-50-122 through 50-50-125 reserved.
50-50-126. Nonprofit retail food establishments authorized to serve wild game and fish meat — rulemaking — definitions.

Part 2 — Licensing

50-50-201. License or permit required.
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50-50-209. Cancellation of license.
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50-50-215. Refusal by local health officer — appeal to board.
50-50-216. Special revenue account.
50-50-217. Water hauler requirements.

Part 3 — Inspections

50-50-301. Health officers and sanitarians to make investigations and inspections — training requirements.
50-50-302. Health officers and sanitarians to have free access.
50-50-303. Licensee or registrant to furnish food samples.
50-50-304. Discovery of food capable of causing food-borne illness.
50-50-305. Department to pay local board for inspections and enforcement.

Part 4 — Frozen Food Lockers

50-50-401. Tagging or declaration requirements for stored meat.
50-50-402. Plant owner not responsible for violation of game laws.
50-50-403. Liability of frozen food plant operators restricted.

Chapter Cross-References

Wholesale food establishments, Title 50, ch. 57.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-50-101. Purpose of regulation. Regulation required under this chapter is intended to prevent and eliminate conditions and practices that endanger public health.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-611; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Consumer" means a person who is a member of the public, takes possession of food, and does not offer the food for resale.

(2) "Contract cook" means a person who specializes in a home food service and prepares food in an individual's domestic residence only for members of that household and house guests.

(3) "Cottage food operation" means a person who provides, manufactures, or packages cottage food products only in a kitchen in a registered area of a domestic residence and only for direct sale to a consumer in this state.

(4) "Cottage food products" means foods that are not potentially hazardous and are processed or packaged in a cottage food operation, including jams, jellies, dried fruit, dry mixes, and baked goods. Other similar foods that are not potentially hazardous may be defined by the department by rule.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Direct sale" means a face-to-face purchase or exchange of the cottage food product between the manufacturer or packager of a cottage food product and a consumer or individual purchasing the cottage food product as a gift. The direct sale may not be by consignment or involve shipping or internet sales.

(7) "Domestic residence" means a single-family house or a unit in a multiunit residential structure, whether rented, leased, or owned by the person in charge of the cottage food operation.

(8) "Farmer's market" means a farm premises, a food stand owned and operated by a farmer, or an organized market authorized by the appropriate municipal or county authority under 7-21-3301.

(9) "Food" means an edible substance, beverage, or ingredient used, intended for use, or for sale for human consumption.

(10) "Local board of health" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(11) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer, appointed by the local board of health, or the health officer's authorized representative.

(12) "Meat market" means an operation and buildings or structures in connection with the meat market that are used to process, store, or display meat or meat products for retail sale to the public or for human consumption.

(13) (a) "Mobile food establishment" means a retail food establishment that serves or sells food from a motor vehicle, a nonmotorized cart, a boat, or other movable vehicle that periodically or continuously changes location and requires a servicing area to accommodate the unit for cleaning, inspection, and maintenance.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a motor vehicle used solely to transport or deliver food by a motorized carrier regulated by the state or the federal government;

(ii) a cottage food operation transport vehicle; or

(iii) a concession stand designed to operate as a temporary food establishment.

(14) "Nonprofit organization" means any organization qualifying as a tax-exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501.

(15) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, an association, a cooperative group, the state or a political subdivision of the state, or other entity.

(16) "Potentially hazardous food" means food that requires time and temperature control for safety to limit toxin formation or the growth of pathogenic microorganisms.

(17) (a) "Raw agricultural commodity" means any food in its raw, unaltered state, including fruits, vegetables, raw honey, and grains. A raw agricultural commodity may be in a container if putting the commodity in a container does not alter the raw state.

(b) The term does not include an agricultural commodity that has been altered by being:

(i) cooked;

(ii) canned;

(iii) preserved, except for drying;

(iv) combined with other food products; or

(v) peeled, diced, cut, blanched, or otherwise subjected to value-adding procedures.

(18) "Registered area" means the portion of a domestic residence that has been registered as provided in 50-50-117 and in which food ingredients intended for cottage food products are transported or stored or the domestic residence kitchen where cottage food products are processed, packaged, or stored.

(19) "Regulatory authority" means the department, the local board of health, the local health officer, or the local sanitarian.

(20) "Retail" means the provision of food directly to the consumer.

(21) (a) "Retail food establishment" means an operation, whether mobile or at a temporary or stationary facility or location, that meets one or more of the conditions in subsections (21)(a)(i) and (21)(a)(ii) and that may include a central processing facility that supplies a transportation vehicle or a vending location or satellite feeding location. A retail food establishment:

(i) stores, processes, packages, serves, or vends food directly to the consumer or otherwise provides food for human consumption at a venue that may include:

(A) a restaurant;

(B) a market;

(C) a satellite or catered feeding location;

(D) a catering operation if the catering operation provides food directly to a consumer or to a conveyance used to transport people;

(E) a vending location;

(F) a conveyance used to transport people;

(G) an institution; or

(H) a food bank; and

(ii) relinquishes possession of food to a consumer directly or indirectly by using either a delivery service, as is done for grocery or restaurant orders, or a common carrier that provides deliveries.

(b) The term is not dependent on whether consumption is on or off the premises or whether there is a charge for food served to the public.

(c) The term does not include:

(i) milk producers' facilities, milk pasteurization facilities, or milk product manufacturing plants;

(ii) slaughterhouses, meat packing plants, or meat depots;

(iii) growers or harvesters of raw agricultural commodities;

(iv) a cottage food operation;

(v) a person that sells or serves only commercially prepackaged foods that are not potentially hazardous;

(vi) a food stand that offers raw agricultural commodities;

(vii) a wholesale food establishment, including those wholesale food establishments that are located on the same premises as a retail food establishment;

(viii) a kitchen in a domestic residence used for preparing food to sell or serve at a function by a nonprofit organization as provided in subsection (21)(c)(xiii);

(ix) custom meat and game animal processors that receive from an owner the remains of a carcass and process those remains for delivery to the owner for the exclusive use in the owner's household by the owner or members of the owner's household, including the owner's family pets, or of the owner's nonpaying guests or employees. For this exemption to apply, the carcass must be kept separate from other meat food products and parts that are to be prepared for sale.

(x) private, religious, fraternal, youth, patriotic, or civic organizations that serve or sell food to the public over no more than 4 days in a 12-month period;

(xi) a private organization that serves food only to its members and their guests;

(xii) a bed and breakfast, a hotel, a motel, a roominghouse, a guest ranch, an outfitting and guide facility, a boardinghouse, or a tourist home as defined in 50-51-102 that serves food only to registered guests and day visitors;

(xiii) a nonprofit organization that operates a temporary food establishment under a permit as provided in 50-50-120;

(xiv) persons who sell or serve at a farmer's market or a food stand whole shell eggs, hot coffee, hot tea, homemade food or a homemade food product pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, or other food not meeting the definition of potentially hazardous, as authorized by the appropriate municipal or county authority;

(xv) a day-care center under 52-2-721(1)(a) or day-care providers who are not subject to licensure under 52-2-721(1)(a);

(xvi) a private domestic residence that receives catered or home-delivered food;

(xvii) a contract cook; or

(xviii) a provider of free samples to the public as a marketing activity if the provider is a licensed wholesale food establishment, a cottage food operation, or a seller at a farmer's market.

(22) "Temporary food establishment" means a retail food establishment that in a licensing year either:

(a) operates at a fixed location for no more than 21 days in conjunction with a single event or celebration; or

(b) uses a fixed menu and operates within a single county at a recurring event or celebration for no more than 45 days.

(23) (a) "Water hauler" means a person engaged in the business of transporting water for human consumption and use and that is not regulated as a public water supply system as provided in Title 75, chapter 6.

(b) The term does not include a person engaged in the business of transporting water for human consumption that is used for individual family households and family farms and ranches.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-612; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 315, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 347, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 347, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-50-103. Department authorized to adopt rules — advisory council. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), to protect public health, the department may adopt rules relating to:

(a) the operation of retail food establishments and cottage food operations. The rules may address sanitation standards related to food, personnel, food equipment and utensils, and facilities and may address other controls, construction and fixtures, and housekeeping.

(b) licensure of retail food establishments; and

(c) registration for cottage food operations, including the fees to be charged for registration. The department shall specify in rule any fees for farmer's markets and cottage food operations that may be imposed by a regulatory authority.

(2) The department may adopt rules regarding permitting fees, statewide standards, plans to be provided by mobile food establishments as part of a mobile food establishment's licensing requirements, and an appeals process at the state and local levels.

(3) The department and local boards of health may not adopt rules or ordinances, respectively, that prohibit:

(a) the sale of cottage food products;

(b) the use of commercially processed wild game or fish meat in meals served by nonprofit retail food establishments pursuant to 50-50-126; or

(c) the sale of homemade food or a homemade food product pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49.

(4) (a) The department shall establish a food safety task force or advisory council to assist in the development of administrative rules or to review any proposed legislation related to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The task force or advisory council must be composed of equal numbers of representatives of the departments of public health and human services, agriculture, and livestock and of registered sanitarians from local regulatory authorities and no more than six members of the public. Each department head shall appoint two of the public members and confer with other department heads to provide geographic representation. Each public member must be an owner or employee of a licensed retail food establishment or a representative of the food industry.

(c) The department shall present administrative rules and any legislation to be proposed by the department to the task force or advisory council prior to its proposal or introduction. When the department learns of proposed legislation related to the provisions of this chapter that has not been proposed by the department, the department shall provide copies of that legislation for review by the task force or advisory council and shall provide to the legislature any comments of the task force or advisory council.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-620(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 528, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 28, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 347, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 347, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-50-104. Cooperative agreements authorized. The department may enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and political subdivisions of the state to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-620(part).

Cross-References

Interlocal cooperation, Art. XI, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.

50-50-105. Diseased person not to handle food. A person who has a communicable disease may not work in any retail food establishment or in the handling or processing of food served to the public until a local health officer has determined that the person is free of the infectious agent or unlikely to transmit the infectious agent because of the nature of the person's work.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-619; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-106. Injunctions. The regulatory authority may bring an action for an injunction against any continued violation of this chapter or rule adopted by the department under this chapter.

History: En. 27-615.2 by Sec. 3, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615.2; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-107. County attorney to prosecute violations. When the regulatory authority furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state, the county attorney shall prosecute any person, firm, or corporation violating this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(5); amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-50-108. Violation — misdemeanor. A person who purposefully or knowingly violates provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the person shall be:

(1) fined not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense;

(2) fined not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense;

(3) fined not less than $200 and imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 90 days for the third offense and subsequent offenses.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-625; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-50-109. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred. (1) A retail food establishment or a cottage food operation that violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500.

(2) Civil action to impose penalties, as provided under this section, does not bar injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-50-110. Costs and expenses — recovery by department or county. In a civil action initiated by the regulatory authority under this chapter, the court may, by petition of the regulatory authority, order a retail food establishment or a cottage food operation that is found in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter to pay the costs of investigations and any other expenses incurred in enforcing the provisions of this chapter in the case of a willful violation. These costs are limited to the direct costs of investigations and other expenses.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-111 through 50-50-115 reserved.

50-50-116. Conditions for cottage food operation exemption from licensure and routine facility inspection. (1) To acquire the status of not being a retail food establishment, a cottage food operation must meet the conditions in this section and shall register with a local health authority as provided in 50-50-117.

(2) A cottage food operation shall:

(a) follow department food standards as provided in rule, including applicable provisions implementing the 2013 United States food and drug administration food code;

(b) package cottage food products and label the cottage food products prior to sale, including on the label, at a minimum, the following:

(i) the name, address, city, state, and zip code of the cottage food operation;

(ii) the name of the cottage food product;

(iii) the ingredients of the cottage food product, in descending order of predominance by weight;

(iv) the net quantity, weight, count, or volume of the cottage food product;

(v) allergen labeling as specified by federal and state labeling requirements;

(vi) if a nutritional claim is made, an appropriate label if required by federal law; and

(vii) the following statement, printed in at least the equivalent of 11-point font size in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background and is conspicuously placed on the principal label:

"Made in a home kitchen that is not subject to retail food establishment regulations or inspections."

(3) Providing cottage food products by consignment, including at a retail food establishment or through a wholesale establishment, is prohibited.

(4) Processing or packaging of cottage food products must be in the specific registered area of the domestic residence of the person processing or packaging the cottage food products.

(5) A cottage food operation may store cottage food products only in the registered area of the primary domestic residence used to produce the cottage food product or temporarily in a motor vehicle used to transport cottage food products.

(6) (a) A cottage food operation is subject to local health authority or state enforcement action for violations of applicable department regulations.

(b) Cottage food products may be subject to other state or federal laws or regulations.

(7) A cottage food operation that meets the requirements in this section is not a retail food establishment or a wholesale food establishment and is not subject to licensure or inspection requirements under Title 50, chapter 57, or this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-117. Registration of cottage food operations — fee. (1) A person in charge of a cottage food operation shall register with the local health authority in the county in which the person's domestic residence is located and pay a registration fee as provided in subsection (6).

(2) A registrant shall provide:

(a) the name of the cottage food operation;

(b) the physical address of the domestic residence, as defined in 50-50-102, where the ingredients are manufactured or packaged into cottage food products and stored;

(c) a brief description of expected or known food ingredient sources;

(d) a complete list of the cottage food products manufactured or packaged; and

(e) a copy of each cottage food product label.

(3) A local health authority may request additional food safety information, if needed, and shall submit the list of additional information to the department. The additional requested information may not restrain trade through extensive registration requirements.

(4) The local health authority shall submit a copy of the approved registration to the department, which may maintain a listing of cottage food operations.

(5) If a local health authority refuses to register a cottage food operation, the provisions of 50-50-215 apply, including the requirement for notification of the cottage food operation in writing.

(6) The person in charge of the cottage food operation shall pay a nonrefundable registration fee to the county in which the cottage food operation is registered. The department shall set the registration fee by rule. The county shall deposit the registration fee with the county treasurer.

(7) A tribal government may pursue an agreement with the department pursuant to the authority provided in 50-1-106 to coordinate the registration of cottage food operations subject to tribal regulations. The agreement must include an appeals process if the registration is not approved.

(8) If there is not a cooperative agreement pursuant to subsection (7), a person in charge of a cottage food operation may register with the department.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-118 and 50-50-119 reserved.

50-50-120. Temporary food establishment requirements. (1) Whether for-profit or operated by a nonprofit organization, a temporary food establishment:

(a) must be operated in compliance with applicable department rules; and

(b) shall obtain a permit from the local health regulatory authority on a form approved by the state.

(2) (a) A for-profit temporary food establishment shall pay a required permit fee to the local regulatory authority.

(b) A temporary food establishment operated by a nonprofit organization:

(i) is exempt from paying a permit fee; and

(ii) may sell or serve foods that meet the definition of cottage food products but is not required to register as a cottage food operation.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-121. Requirements for farmer's markets. (1) (a) A person selling food that is not potentially hazardous, including food listed in subsection (2), at a farmer's market is not a retail food establishment.

(b) A person selling food that is not potentially hazardous or otherwise listed in subsection (2) if selling only at a farmer's market is not required to register as a cottage food operation.

(2) Foods that are not potentially hazardous or are otherwise eligible to be sold at a farmer's market include:

(a) whole shell eggs if the whole shell eggs are clean, free of cracks, and stored in clean cartons at a temperature established by the department by rule;

(b) hot coffee or hot tea if the person selling the hot coffee or hot tea does not provide or include fresh milk or cream;

(c) raw agricultural commodities;

(d) food identified by the department by rule as not being a potentially hazardous food; and

(e) homemade food or a homemade food product pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49.

(3) A farmer's market authorized by a municipal or county authority shall keep registration records of all persons and organizations that serve or sell food exempt from licensure at the market, including food that does not meet the definition of potentially hazardous food.

(4) The registration records must include the name, address, and telephone number of the seller or server as well as the types of products sold or served and the date on which the products were sold or served.

(5) A farmer's market under this section shall make registration records available upon request to the local health authority.

(6) Except for homemade food or a homemade food product pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, food sold in a farmer's market must, if sold in a container, have a label similar to a label required of a cottage food product under 50-50-116.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 347, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 347, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

50-50-122 through 50-50-125 reserved.

50-50-126. Nonprofit retail food establishments authorized to serve wild game and fish meat — rulemaking — definitions. (1) A retail food establishment that is owned and operated by a nonprofit organization may use commercially processed meat from wild game and fish taken in Montana in meals served to individuals at no charge.

(2) The department may adopt food safety rules for the implementation of this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following terms apply:

(a) "Commercially processed meat" means wild game or fish processed by a person, firm, or corporation that has a valid meat establishment license pursuant to 81-9-201.

(b) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), as amended.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 3, L. 2019.

Part 2
Licensing

50-50-201. License or permit required. (1) (a) Except as provided in 50-50-202 and subsection (1)(b)(i) of this section, a person operating a retail food establishment shall procure an annual license from the department.

(b) (i) A temporary food establishment described in 50-50-120(2)(a) shall obtain a permit and pay a permit fee to the local regulatory authority in the county where the temporary food establishment is operated.

(ii) For a temporary food establishment described under 50-50-102(22)(b), each time a temporary food establishment alters its menu substantially by food type and means of production, a separate permit must be obtained and a separate permit fee paid.

(2) A separate license is required for each retail food establishment, but if more than one type of retail food establishment is operated on the same premises and under the same management, only one license is required.

(3) Only one retail food establishment license is required for a person owning and operating one or more vending machines.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), a retail food establishment license issued by the department is not valid unless signed in accordance with 50-50-214.

(b) A temporary food establishment permit must be signed by the local health officer or the health officer's designee to be valid.

(5) A tribal government may pursue an agreement with the department pursuant to the authority provided in 50-1-106 to coordinate the licensing of a mobile retail food establishment subject to tribal regulations. The agreement must include an appeals process if the license is not validated.

(6) If there is not a cooperative agreement pursuant to subsection (5), the department may issue a license to a person operating a mobile retail food establishment.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-613(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 366, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References
Carrying on business without license — penalty, 7-21-2113.
Cities authorized to license soft drink establishments, 7-21-4201.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-202. Exemptions from license requirement. (1) A retail food establishment owned or operated by the state or a political subdivision of the state, if that political subdivision employs a full-time sanitarian, is exempt from licensure under this chapter but shall comply with the requirements of this chapter and rules adopted by the department under this chapter. A retail food establishment under this subsection may be operated by but is not limited to a county jail, a local government-owned health care facility, a school, a state prison, or a state university.

(2) A person who exchanges foods in a nonmonetary transaction is exempt from permitting, licensure, and registration.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-613(6); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 528, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 208, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References
Carrying on business without license — penalty, 7-21-2113.

50-50-203. Application for license or permit. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), an application for a retail food establishment license must be:

(a) made to the department on forms and contain information required by the department; or

(b) filed using an application for a license that is in compliance with rules established by the board of review established in 30-16-302.

(2) An application for a temporary food establishment permit must be made to the local regulatory authority on a state-approved form. If a local board of review exists, the local board of review shall work with the state to provide a permit application under this subsection similar to the state-approved form, and the temporary food establishment may use the local board of review permit application.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-614(1); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 366, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-204. Right to license. Licenses shall be granted as a matter of right unless grounds for denial or cancellation exist.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-613(7).

Cross-References
Carrying on business without license — penalty, 7-21-2113.
Discrimination in licensing prohibited, 49-3-204.

50-50-205. License fee — late fee — preemption of local authority — exception. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6) or (7), the department shall collect for each license issued or renewed a fee as provided in subsection (1)(b). Of the fees collected under this section, 90% must be deposited into the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108, 5% into the general fund, and 5% into the account provided for in 50-50-216.

(b) License fees are:

(i) $85 for each license issued to a retail food establishment that does not have more than two employees working at any one time; and

(ii) $115 for retail food establishments other than those referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i).

(2) (a) In addition to the license fee required under subsection (1), the department shall collect a late fee of $25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration of the licensee's current license and who operates a retail food establishment governed by this part in the next licensing year.

(b) The late fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-50-216.

(3) A county or other local government may not impose an inspection fee or charge in addition to the fee provided for in subsection (1) unless a violation of this chapter or rule persists and is not corrected after two inspections of the retail food establishment.

(4) The fees in subsections (1) and (2) may be paid by credit card and may be discounted for payment processing charges paid by the department to a third party. However, the discounting of license fees may not reduce the fees paid into the local board inspection fund account established in 50-2-108.

(5) The department shall collect a fee as provided in rule for each mobile food establishment plan submitted to the department for review.

(6) (a) A local health authority shall collect a fee, as provided in subsection (6)(b), for a permit issued for a temporary food establishment required to register under 50-50-120.

(b) A fee charged to a temporary food establishment may not exceed the amount charged to a retail food establishment as provided in subsection (1).

(c) The local regulatory authority shall use the revenue from the fee collected under this subsection (6) to defray costs associated with issuing a temporary food establishment permit and the costs of inspections required under this chapter.

(7) A fee may not be charged to a person who sells or serves whole shell eggs at a farmer's market if the whole shell eggs are clean, free of cracks, and stored in clean cartons that are labeled in accordance with department rules and kept at a temperature established by the department by rule.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-614(2); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 366, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 528, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 482, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-50-206. License not transferable. Licenses are not transferable or applicable to any premises other than that for which the license was issued.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-613(5).**

50-50-207. Expiration date of license. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), licenses expire on December 31 following the date of issue unless canceled for cause.

(2) License renewals provided for in 16-11-122, 30-12-203(5)(a), 50-50-201, 80-7-106, and 82-15-105 expire on the anniversary date established by rule by the board of review established in 30-16-302.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-613(4); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 34, L. 2005.**

50-50-208. Local board to report number of licensees to department. Before June 1 of each year, the local board of health shall submit to the department a list of the licensed retail food establishments, excluding temporary food establishments, in each jurisdiction. The local board of health also shall submit to the department a list of cottage food operations that have registered as provided in 50-50-117.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-614(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-209. Cancellation of license. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department may cancel the license of a retail food establishment if the department finds, after proper investigation, that the licensee has violated this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter and the licensee has failed or refused to remedy or correct the violation.

(2) A local regulatory authority may cancel a temporary food establishment permit if the local regulatory authority finds after proper investigation that the permitholder has:

(a) violated the provisions of this chapter or a rule promulgated under this chapter; and

(b) failed or refused to remedy or correct a violation that was the subject of the investigation.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

50-50-210. Submission of plan of correction as bar to cancellation. Submission to the department of an acceptable plan of correction within 10 days after receipt from the department of written notice of violation and execution of an acceptable plan within the time prescribed in the written notice of approval of the plan by the department shall be a bar to prosecution for violation.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(part).**

50-50-211. Notice and hearing required. (1) The department may not deny or cancel the license of a retail food establishment without delivering to the applicant or licensee a written statement of the grounds for cancellation or denial or the charge involved and an opportunity to answer at a hearing before the department to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled. To request a hearing, the licensee shall make a written request to the department within 10 days after notice of the grounds or charges has been received.

(2) A local regulatory authority may not deny or cancel a temporary food establishment permit without delivering to the applicant or permitholder a written statement of the grounds for cancellation or denial or the charge involved and an opportunity to answer at a hearing before the local board of health to show cause, if any, why the permit should not be denied or canceled. To request a hearing, the permitholder shall make a written request to the local board of health within 10 days after notice of the grounds or charges has been received. This subsection does not prohibit the cancellation of a permit in the event of an immediate threat to the public health. The permitholder retains the right of appeal.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(2); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-50-212. Cancellation of license or permit for multiple-type establishment. When a multiple-type retail food establishment is licensed by the department, the denial or cancellation of the license may affect the entire establishment or only a portion as determined by the department. A multiple-type retail food establishment, including a mobile food establishment, includes an establishment authorized by 50-50-201(2).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(3); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-213. Return of license or permit for alteration or destruction. On cancellation of the license of a retail food establishment or the right to operate one or more of the multiple-type retail food establishments under the same license, the license certificate must be returned to the department for destruction or deletion of types of establishment as the department may direct in its notice of cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-615(4); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

50-50-214. Notification of and validation by local health officer. (1) (a) A retail food establishment license issued by the department under this chapter is not valid until signed by the local health officer in the county where the retail food establishment is located or until the license is otherwise validated by the local health officer and is in accordance with rules established by the board of review established in 30-16-302.

(b) The local health officer shall, within 15 days after the department has notified the local health officer of its decision to issue a retail food establishment license, make a final decision on whether the retail food establishment license will be validated.

(c) Failure of the local health officer to validate the retail food establishment license within 15 days after its receipt is a refusal.

(2) A temporary food establishment permit issued by the local regulatory authority under this chapter must be signed and validated by the local health officer in the county where the temporary food establishment is to operate. If a local board of review exists, the local health officer may validate the permit in accordance with regulations established by the local board of review.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 366, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-215. Refusal by local health officer — appeal to board. (1) (a) The local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued under this chapter only upon a finding that the requirements of this chapter and any rules implementing this chapter are not satisfied. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license, the officer shall notify the applicant and the department in writing stating the officer's reasons.

(b) If a local health officer does not approve a registration of a cottage food operator, as provided in 50-50-117, or a temporary food establishment permit, as provided in 50-50-120, the officer shall notify the applicant in writing stating the officer's reasons.

(2) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the local health officer as provided in subsection (1) may appeal the decision to the local board of health within 30 days after receiving written notice of the local health officer's decision.

(3) The hearing before the local board of health must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1852, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 239, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-216. Special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is allocated to the department to be used to administer the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 732, L. 1991.

Cross-References

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-50-217. Water hauler requirements. As a requirement for licensure, a water hauler may obtain potable water only from an approved public water supply system, as defined in 75-6-102, or from sources approved and adopted by the department by rule.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 428, L. 2001.

Part 3
Inspections

Part Cross-References

Municipal power to inspect foodstuffs and regulate soft drink establishments, 7-21-4201, 7-21-4202.

50-50-301. Health officers and sanitarians to make investigations and inspections — training requirements. (1) State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians shall make investigations and inspections of retail food establishments once a year and make reports to the department as required under rules adopted by the department. An inspection may be conducted more often than once a year.

(2) A person conducting an inspection must be certified and have completed a food safety training program, such as the program administered by the national restaurant association educational foundation or its equivalent.

(3) (a) A cottage food operation is not subject to inspection under this section unless the state or local health officer is investigating a complaint based on an illness or an outbreak suspected to be directly related to cottage food products.

(b) A cottage food operation may request an inspection and pay the appropriate costs for that inspection on a voluntary basis.

(4) A producer as defined in 50-49-202 selling homemade food or a homemade food product pursuant to Title 50, chapter 49, part 2, is not subject to inspection under this section unless the state or local health officer is investigating a complaint based on an illness or an outbreak suspected to be directly related to that homemade food or homemade food product.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-621(1); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 528, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 239, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 320, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-50-302. Health officers and sanitarians to have free access. (1) State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and sanitarians must be provided free access to retail food establishments licensed or permitted under this chapter at all reasonable hours for the purpose of conducting investigations and inspections as required under this chapter.

(2) For the purpose of conducting investigations regarding complaints, illness, or outbreaks, state and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and sanitarians must be provided free access at all reasonable hours to cottage food operations if a complaint, illness, or outbreak is suspected or is directly related to the cottage food operation's cottage food products.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-621(2); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-50-303. Licensee or registrant to furnish food samples. A licensee or a registrant under Title 50, chapter 50, part 2, shall furnish food samples for analysis as required by rules adopted by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-621(3); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

50-50-304. Discovery of food capable of causing food-borne illness. If a state or local health officer, sanitarian, or other authorized person finds food that is capable of causing food-borne illness, that person shall issue a report in writing recommending that the food be withheld from sale to the public. A duplicate copy of the report, properly authenticated, is admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding where the condition of the food at the time of the inspection is material.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 27-621(4); amd. Sec. 1853, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-50-305. Department to pay local board for inspections and enforcement. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), before June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a local board of health, as established under 50-2-104, 50-2-106, or 50-2-107, an amount from the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108 that must be used only for the purpose of inspecting retail food establishments, including mobile food establishments, licensed under this chapter and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

(2) (a) The provisions of subsection (1) apply only if there is a functioning local board of health and the local board of health, local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians meet the requirements listed in subsection (2)(b).

(b) To be eligible under subsection (1), the entities listed in subsection (2)(a) shall:

(i) assist in inspections and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter; and

(ii) meet minimum program performance standards as established under rules adopted by the department.

(3) The funds received by the local board of health pursuant to subsection (1) must be deposited with the appropriate local fiscal authority and must be used to supplement, but not supplant, other funds received by the local board of health that in the absence of funding received under subsection (1) would be made available for the same purpose.

(4) Funds in the local board inspection fund account not paid to the local board of health as provided in subsection (1) may be used by the department, within any jurisdiction that does not qualify to receive payments from the local board inspection fund account, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 27-614(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 732, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

Part 4
Frozen Food Lockers

Part Cross-References

Frozen food plant operator's lien for rent, 71-3-1505.

50-50-401. Tagging or declaration requirements for stored meat. (1) The owner or operator of an establishment, as defined in this chapter, shall not receive the carcass of a game animal, game bird, or any quarter, half, or whole carcass of beef or veal unless:

(a) it is properly stamped or tagged; or

(b) a written declaration is filed by the owner stating how it was obtained, date placed in the locker, and weight and type of meat.

(2) A declaration made under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall be retained for 1 year and shall be open to inspection by employees of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-624(part).**

Cross-References

Hunting and trapping licenses, Title 87, ch. 2.

50-50-402. Plant owner not responsible for violation of game laws. A person who owns or operates a frozen food plant that offers individual compartments to the public is not responsible for violation of game laws by persons who rent locker space from the owner or operator.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-624(part); amd. Sec. 1854, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Fish and wildlife laws, Title 87.

50-50-403. Liability of frozen food plant operators restricted. The liability for loss of food by the owner or operator of a frozen food plant that offers individual compartments to the public is limited to negligence in operation or negligence of the owner's or operator's employees.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-622; amd. Sec. 1855, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Liability for negligence, 27-1-701, 27-1-702.
Liability of principal for agent's negligence, 28-10-602.

CHAPTER 51
HOTELS, MOTELS, AND ROOMINGHOUSES

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Chapter Cross-References

Public swimming pools, Title 50, ch. 53.
Fire safety in public buildings, Title 50, ch. 61.
Bailments to innkeepers, Title 70, ch. 6, part 5.
Hotelkeepers' liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 14.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-51-101. Findings and purpose of regulation or guidelines. (1) It is found that the welfare of the public is benefited by regulation or voluntary guidelines for the operation of establishments providing lodging space accommodations and for persons providing accommodations in order to prevent or eliminate unsanitary and unhealthful conditions and practices, which conditions and practices may endanger public health. It is further found that the regulation of or application of voluntary guidelines to establishments providing lodging space accommodations is in the interest of social well-being and the health and safety of the state and all of its people.

(2) The legislature recognizes that there is a wide disparity in the type of establishments, especially in the size, the time of year at which the establishments operate, and the ability of small establishments with few employees and a limited operating season to conform to the same standards to which larger establishments are required to conform. These factors must be considered, especially in the operation of small or seasonal businesses that are such an important part of Montana's tourism business. For these reasons, the legislature believes that department actions must be tailored to properly and reasonably address differences in the size, location, purpose, and time of year of operation of certain small or seasonal establishments. The legislature believes that guidelines to assist these small and seasonal establishments with addressing basic health standards are appropriate, rather than regulations. The guidelines should be voluntary and address basic health standards and should not detract from the rustic, out-of-doors experience offered by many guest ranches and outfitter and guide facilities and desired by many tourists. The legislature is also aware that most of these small and seasonal establishments such as guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities have not been subject to department regulation. While voluntary guidance from the department on basic public health concerns may benefit these establishments, regulation is not warranted.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 34-301; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 2011.

50-51-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bed and breakfast" means a private, owner- or manager-occupied residence that is used as a private residence but in which:

(a) breakfast is served and is included in the charge for a guest room; and

(b) the number of daily guests served does not exceed 18.

(2) (a) "Day visitor" means a guest whose primary purpose on the guest ranch is to participate in recreational activities regularly provided by the guest ranch for a fee including but not limited to hunting, horseback riding, working cattle, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, or fishing, who may be served food incidental to the activity, and who does not stay overnight.

(b) The term does not include persons attending weddings, parties, large group functions, or other meals not related to the recreational activities described in subsection (2)(a) and who may not be served food unless the guest ranch or other entity serving the food has a license issued pursuant to 50-50-201.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Establishment" means a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, roominghouse, guest ranch, outfitting and guide facility, boardinghouse, or tourist home.

(5) "Guest ranch" means a facility that:

(a) uses one or more permanent structures, one or more of which have running water, sewage disposal, and a kitchen;

(b) furnishes sleeping accommodations on advance reservations for a minimum stay;

(c) provides recreational activities that include but are not limited to hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, biking, snowmobiling, or a working cattle ranch experience to its guests and day visitors; and

(d) is a small establishment or a seasonal establishment.

(6) "Hotel" or "motel" includes:

(a) a building or structure kept, used, maintained as, advertised as, or held out to the public to be a hotel, motel, inn, motor court, tourist court, or public lodginghouse; and

(b) a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished for a fee to transient guests, with or without meals.

(7) "Outfitting and guide facility" means a facility that:

(a) uses one or more permanent structures, one or more of which have running water, sewage disposal, and a kitchen;

(b) furnishes sleeping accommodations to guests;

(c) offers hunting, fishing, or recreational services in conjunction with the services of an outfitter or guide, as defined in 37-47-101; and

(d) is a small establishment or a seasonal establishment.

(8) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, county, municipality, cooperative group, or other entity engaged in the business of operating, owning, or offering the services of a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, boardinghouse, tourist home, guest ranch, outfitting and guide facility, or roominghouse.

(9) "Roominghouse" or "boardinghouse" means buildings in which separate sleeping rooms are rented that provide sleeping accommodations for three or more persons on a weekly, semimonthly, monthly, or permanent basis, whether or not meals or central kitchens are provided but without separated cooking facilities or kitchens within each room, and whose occupants do not need professional nursing or personal-care services provided by the facility.

(10) "Seasonal establishment" means a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility operating for less than 120 days in a calendar year and offering accommodations to no more than 40 people on average a day. The average number of people a day is determined by dividing the total number of guests accommodated during the year by the total number of days that the establishment was open for the purpose of accommodating guests as a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility during the year.

(11) "Small establishment" means a guest ranch or an outfitting and guide facility offering accommodations to no more than 24 people on average a day. The average number of people a day is determined by dividing the total number of guests accommodated during the year by the total number of days that the establishment was open for the purpose of accommodating guests as a guest ranch or outfitting and guide facility during the year.

(12) "Tourist home" means a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests on a daily or weekly basis.

(13) "Transient guest" means a guest for only a brief stay, such as the traveling public.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 34-302; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 730, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 316, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 357, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 2015.

50-51-103. Department authorized to adopt rules or guidelines. (1) The department may adopt rules governing the operation of bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, roominghouses, boardinghouses, and tourist homes to protect the public health and safety.

(2) Rules applicable to a bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, roominghouse, boardinghouse, or tourist home may relate to construction, furnishings, housekeeping, personnel, sanitary facilities and controls, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal systems, refuse collection and disposal, registration and supervision, fire and life safety, food service, staggered license expiration dates, and reimbursement of local governments for inspections and enforcement.

(3) The department may not adopt rules governing guest ranches and outfitting and guide facilities that meet the definitions in 50-51-102 but may adopt voluntary guidelines for these facilities. The guidelines must take into consideration the size, type, location, and seasonal operations of an establishment and may include only guidelines to:

(a) address that the establishment has safe drinking water and an adequate water supply;

(b) ensure an adequate and sanitary sewage system and ensure adequate and sanitary refuse collection and disposal; and

(c) address food safety concerns, such as adequate storage, refrigeration, and food handling.

(4) These guidelines must be developed through a negotiated process in cooperation with guest ranches and outfitters and guides. These guidelines are not intended to be regulatory in nature.

(5) The department shall develop guidelines for county sanitarians to provide assistance to guest ranches and outfitters and guides, and the guidelines must be tailored to the needs of each type of establishment.

(6) As provided in 7-1-113, nothing in this section prohibits a local government from adopting an ordinance that:

(a) is the same as or more stringent than rules adopted by the department under this section; or

(b) differs from the voluntary guidelines adopted by the department under this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 485, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 34-306(a); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Title 2, ch. 5.

50-51-104. Cooperative agreements authorized. The department is hereby authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with any of the state agencies or political subdivisions for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter or any part thereof.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 485, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 34-306(b).

Cross-References

Interlocal cooperation, Art. XI, sec. 7, Mont. Const.

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.

50-51-105. County attorney to prosecute violations. When the department furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state, the county attorney shall prosecute any person, firm, or corporation violating this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(5).

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-51-106. Violation of chapter a misdemeanor. Any person violating any provision of this chapter or regulation made hereunder, except 50-51-107, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense and not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense and for the third and subsequent offenses not less than $200 and by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 90 days.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 18, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 34-309; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

50-51-107. Provision of nursing services or personal-care services by facility prohibited. (1) Hotels, motels, boardinghouses, roominghouses, or similar accommodations may not provide professional nursing services or personal-care services. A resident of a hotel, motel, boardinghouse, roominghouse, or similar accommodation may have personal-care, medical, or nursing-related services provided for the resident in the facility by a third-party provider.

(2) Whenever a complaint is filed with the department that a person in need of professional nursing services is residing in a roominghouse or other similar accommodation not licensed to provide that service, the department shall investigate and may require appropriate care or placement of the person if it is found that professional nursing services are needed.

History: En. 34-311, 34-312 by Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 325, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 34-311, 34-312; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 597, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1856, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Medical services and boarding homes for the aged, Title 7, ch. 34.

Health care services, Title 53, ch. 6.

50-51-108. Rules for bed and breakfast establishments. The department, in adopting rules establishing rules for bed and breakfast establishments, shall consult with bed and breakfast operators. The department shall establish a negotiated rulemaking committee, as provided in Title 2, chapter 5, part 1, to consider matters proposed by the department that affect bed and breakfast establishments.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 350, L. 1997.**

50-51-109 reserved.

50-51-110. Special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is allocated to the department to be used to administer the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 730, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-51-111 through 50-51-113 reserved.

50-51-114. Emergency lodging program — definitions. (1) There is an emergency lodging program for licensed establishments located in Montana to assist designated charitable organizations in providing short-term lodging in Montana to individuals and families displaced from their residences.

(2) The purpose of the program is to provide emergency lodging to an individual or family who is:

(a) in immediate need of shelter based on an imminent or existing threat to the safety or security of the individual or family; and

(b) referred to the establishment by a designated charitable organization.

(3) Emergency lodging provided under this section must be provided at no cost to the individual or the referring organization.

(4) Participating establishments may offer lodging based on availability of rooms.

(5) The department shall maintain a registry of designated charitable organizations and shall provide a list of approved organizations to establishments on request. The department shall seek comment from appropriate statewide nonprofit organizations when developing and updating the registry.

(6) For the purposes of 50-51-115 and this section, "designated charitable organization" means an organization approved by the department to make referrals for emergency lodging.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 388, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 503, L. 2021.**

50-51-115. Emergency lodging — liability for damages. (1) An individual who is provided with emergency lodging under 50-51-114 is liable for damages caused to the property during the individual's stay.

(2) If the individual is unable to pay for damages caused to the property, the designated charitable organization that referred the individual for emergency lodging is responsible for the cost of the damages.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 375, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 388, L. 2015.**

Part 2
Licensing

50-51-201. License required. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person engaged in the business of conducting or operating an establishment shall annually procure a license issued by the department.

(2) A guest ranch or an outfitting and guide facility that meets the definitions in 50-51-102 is not required to obtain a license under subsection (1).

(3) A separate license is required for each establishment. However, when more than one type of establishment is operated on the same premises and under the same management, only one license is required that must enumerate on the certificate the types of establishments licensed.

(4) Before a license may be issued by the department, it must be validated by the local health officer or, if there is no local health officer, the sanitarian, in the county where the establishment is located.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 34-303(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 730, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 366, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 350, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 334, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Discrimination in licensing prohibited, 49-3-204.

One-step facility licensing, Title 50, ch. 8.

50-51-202. Application for license. Application for a license shall be made in writing to the department on such forms and with such pertinent information as it considers necessary.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 34-303(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

50-51-203. Right to renewal. (1) Existing licenses shall be renewed as a matter of right, unless conditions exist which are grounds for a cancellation or denial of a license.

(2) Renewal may be obtained annually by paying the required annual license fee.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 1973; Sec. 34-303, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; Sec. 34-304, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 34-303(part), 34-304(part).

50-51-204. License fee — late fee. (1) (a) The department shall collect fees for each license required under 50-51-201 or for each annual license renewal as provided in subsection (1)(b). The department shall deposit 85% of the fees collected under this section into the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108, 11.25% of the fees into the general fund, and 3.75% of the fees into the account provided for in 50-51-110.

(b) Initial and renewal license fees are:

(i) $40 annually for an establishment with no more than 10 rooms available for rental;

(ii) $80 annually for an establishment with more than 10 but not more than 25 rooms available for rental; and

(iii) $160 annually for an establishment with more than 25 rooms available for rental.

(2) (a) In addition to the license renewal fee required under subsection (1), the department shall collect a late fee of $25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration of the licensee's current license and who operates an establishment governed by this part in the next licensing year.

(b) The late fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-51-110.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-304(a); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 730, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1857, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 482, L. 2009.

Cross-References

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-51-205. License fee to supersede other fees. Payment of the license fee stipulated herein shall be accepted in lieu of any and all existing state fees and charges for like purposes or intent which may be existent prior to the adoption of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 18, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 34-310.

50-51-206. License not transferable. Such license shall not be transferable or be applicable to any premises other than that for which originally issued.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-304(part).

50-51-207. Expiration date of license. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), each license expires on December 31 following its date of issue unless canceled for cause.

(2) The department may amend or issue licenses to provide for staggered expiration dates. The department may provide for initial license terms of greater than 12 months but no more than 23 months in adopting staggered expiration dates. Thereafter, licenses expire annually. License fees for the license term implementing staggered license terms may be prorated by the department.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-304(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 350, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 412, L. 1997.

50-51-208. Local board to report number of licensees to department. Before June 1 of each year, the local board of health shall submit to the department a list of the establishments in each jurisdiction that are licensed pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-304(part).

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-51-209. Cancellation of license. The department may cancel a license if it finds, after proper investigation, that the licensee has violated this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter and the licensee has failed or refused to remedy or correct the violation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(part).

50-51-210. Submission of plan of correction as bar to cancellation. Submission to the department of an acceptable plan of correction within 10 days after receipt from the department of written notice of violation and execution of an acceptable plan within the time prescribed in the written notice of approval of the plan by the department shall be a bar to prosecution for violation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(part).

50-51-211. Notice and hearing required. A license may not be denied or canceled by the department without delivery to the applicant or licensee of a written statement of the grounds therefor or the charge involved and an opportunity to answer at a hearing before the department to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled. In such case, the licensee must make a written request to the department for a hearing within 10 days after notice of the grounds or charges has been received.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 239, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-51-212. Cancellation of license for multiple-type establishment — definition. (1) When a multiple-type establishment is licensed by the department, the denial or cancellation of the license may affect the entire establishment or only a portion of it as determined by the department.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "multiple-type establishment" includes two or more of the following: bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, or tourist home.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(3); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 350, L. 1997.

50-51-213. Return of license for alteration or destruction. On cancellation of a license or the right to operate one or more of the multiple-type establishments under the same license, the license certificate shall be returned to the department for destruction or deletion of types of establishment as the department may direct in its notice of cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-305(4).

50-51-214. Notification of and validation by local health officer. (1) A license issued by the department under this chapter is not valid until signed by the local health officer in the county where the establishment is located.

(2) The local health officer shall, within 15 days after the department has notified the local health officer of its decision to issue a license under this chapter, make a final decision on whether the license will be validated.

(3) Failure of the local health officer to validate the license within 15 days after its receipt is a refusal.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-51-215. Refusal by local health officer — appeal to board. (1) The local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued under this chapter only upon a finding that the requirements of this chapter and any rules implementing it are not satisfied. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license, the officer shall notify the applicant and the department in writing stating the officer's reasons.

(2) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the local health officer not to validate a license may appeal the decision to the local board of health within 30 days after receiving written notice of the local health officer's decision.

(3) The hearing before the local board of health must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1858, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Contested cases — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

Part 3
Inspections

50-51-301. Health officers to make investigations and inspections. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians shall make investigations and inspections of establishments and make reports to the department as required under rules adopted by the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 34-307(a); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 730, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Licensing of sanitarians, Title 37, ch. 40.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.
One-step facility licensing, Title 50, ch. 8.

50-51-302. Health officers to have free access. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians must be provided free access to establishments at all reasonable hours for the purpose of conducting investigations and inspections as required under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 34-307(b); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 730, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-51-303. Department to pay local board for inspections and enforcement. (1) Before June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a local board of health, as established under 50-2-104, 50-2-106, or 50-2-107, an amount from the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108 that must be used only for the purpose of inspecting establishments licensed under this chapter and enforcing the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that:

(a) there is a functioning local board of health; and

(b) the local board of health, local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians:

(i) assist in inspections and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it; and

(ii) meet minimum program performance standards as established under rules adopted by the department.

(2) The funds received by the local board of health pursuant to subsection (1) must be deposited with the appropriate local fiscal authority and must be used to supplement, but not supplant, other funds received by the local board of health that in the absence of funding received under subsection (1) would be available for the same purpose.

(3) Funds in the local board inspection fund account not paid to the local board of health as provided in subsection (1) may be used by the department, within any jurisdiction that does not qualify to receive payments from the local board inspection fund account, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 34-304(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 730, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

Part 4
Penalties

50-51-401. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred. (1) An establishment that violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500.

(2) Civil action to impose penalties, as provided under this section, does not bar injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 730, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 412, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 334, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-51-402. Injunctions. The department or a local board of health may petition the district court to enjoin any action in violation of this chapter or of a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 730, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-51-403. Costs and expenses — recovery by department or county. In a civil action initiated by the department or a county under this chapter, the court may, by petition of the department or county, order an establishment that is found in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter to pay the costs of investigations and any other expenses incurred in enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 730, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

CHAPTER 52
TOURIST CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILER COURTS

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Part 1
General Provisions

50-52-101. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Campground" means a parcel of land available to and principally used by the public for camping, where persons can camp, secure tents or cabins, or park trailers for camping and sleeping purposes.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Establishment" means a campground, trailer court, work camp, or youth camp.

(4) "Parcel of land" means a unit of land all parts of which are contiguous, including contiguous lots, in the possession of, owned by, or managed by the same person.

(5) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity engaged in the business of operating, owning, or offering the services of a campground, trailer court, work camp, or youth camp.

(6) "Political subdivision" means any county, city, town, or other legally constituted unit of local government in this state.

(7) (a) "Trailer court" means a parcel of land upon which two or more spaces are available to the public and designated for occupancy by trailers or mobile homes for use as residences.

(b) The term does not include a parcel composed of platted lots, each lot of which:

(i) is filed with the county clerk and recorder;

(ii) contains only one trailer space; and

(iii) is served by a public water supply system and public sewage system that meet the requirements of rules for systems adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 6, part 1, and that are located within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.

(8) "Work camp" means a parcel of land on which housing is provided by a person for two or more families or individuals living separately, for the exclusive use of the employees of the person and the families, if any, of the employees. For purposes of this subsection, "housing" includes but is not limited to camping spaces; trailer parking spaces; mobile, modular, or permanent barracks or structures; and any appurtenant water supply and distribution system, sewage collection and disposal system, solid waste collection and disposal system, or food service and dining facilities. Housing does not include shelter provided by an employer for persons who are employed to perform agricultural duties on a ranch or farm.

(9) (a) "Youth camp" means a parcel of land on which permanent buildings, tents, or other structures are maintained as living quarters for 10 or more people and that is used primarily for educational or recreational use by minors. The term includes any appurtenant water supply and distribution system, sewage collection and disposal system, solid waste collection and disposal system, or food service and dining facilities.

(b) The term does not include any site used solely by the members and their families of a private organization that owns the site.

History: En. Sec. 212, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 317, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-52-102. Department to adopt rules. The department may adopt rules for constructing and operating campgrounds, trailer courts, work camps, and youth camps to protect the public health and safety. The rules may include rules to:

(1) ensure that establishments have safe and sanitary facilities and systems, including drinking water, sewage disposal, and solid waste disposal systems;

(2) regulate service buildings or facilities associated with any activity regulated by this chapter, including laundry and food service facilities;

(3) provide for review and approval of plans and specifications for establishments;

(4) address nuisances that could cause the spread of disease or illness;

(5) implement staggered license expiration dates;

(6) address licensing of establishments under this chapter and operator requirements; and

(7) provide for reimbursing local governments for inspections and enforcement of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 213, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5602; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 350, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Public water supplies, Title 75, ch. 6.

50-52-103. Duty to obtain license and permit inspections. A person operating an establishment shall:

(1) possess a current license to do so from the department. However, a campground owned by the state or a political subdivision need not obtain a license but must comply with rules applicable to it adopted by the department.

(2) permit inspections by state or local health officers, sanitarians, or other authorized persons at all reasonable times.

History: **En. Sec. 214, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5603; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Discrimination in licensing prohibited, 49-3-204.
One-step facility licensing, Title 50, ch. 8.

50-52-104. County attorney to prosecute violations. When the department furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state, the county attorney shall prosecute any person, firm, or corporation violating this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 217, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5606(3).**

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

50-52-105. Violation of chapter a misdemeanor. (1) A person violating a provision of this chapter or a rule made under it is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense and an amount not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense, and for the third and subsequent offenses, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200 and by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 90 days.

(2) Fines, except justice's court fines, must be paid to the county treasurer of the county in which the establishment is located. The county treasurer shall send all fines collected to the department of revenue, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 218, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5607; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 341, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 257, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

50-52-106. Injunction. The department or a local board of health may petition the district court to enjoin any action in violation of this chapter or of a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 341, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-52-107. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred. (1) An establishment that violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500.

(2) Civil action to impose penalties, as provided under this section, does not bar injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 731, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-52-108. Costs and expenses — recovery by department or county. In a civil action initiated by the department or county under this chapter, the court may, by petition of the department or county, order an establishment that is found in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter to pay the costs of investigations and any other expenses incurred in enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 731, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

Part 2
Licensing

50-52-201. Application for license. (1) Application for a license is made to the department on forms containing information required by the department.

(2) The department may not issue a license unless it has been validated by the local health officer or, if there is no local health officer, the sanitarian in the county where the establishment is located.

History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5604(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 200, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Licensing of sanitarians, Title 37, ch. 40.

Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-52-202. License fee — late fee. (1) (a) Each application for a new license required under 50-52-103 or a license renewal must be accompanied by a fee as provided in subsection (1)(b).

(b) License fees are:

(i) $40 annually for a campground or trailer court with no more than 10 spaces available for rental;

(ii) $60 annually for a campground or trailer court with more than 10 but not more than 25 spaces available for rental; and

(iii) $120 annually for a campground or trailer court with more than 25 spaces available for rental.

(2) Of the fees collected under subsection (1), the department shall deposit 85% into the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108, 11.25% into the general fund, and 3.75% into the account provided for in 50-52-210.

(3) (a) In addition to the license renewal fee required under subsection (1), the department shall collect a late fee of $25 from any licensee who has failed to submit a license renewal fee prior to the expiration of the licensee's current license and who operates an establishment governed by this part in the next licensing year.

(b) The late fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 50-52-210.

History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5604(part); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 731, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1859, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 482, L. 2009.

50-52-203. Expiration date of license. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), licenses expire on December 31 of the year in which they are issued unless canceled for cause.

(2) The department may amend or issue licenses to provide for staggered expiration dates. The department may provide for initial license terms of greater than 12 months but no more than 23 months in adopting staggered expiration dates. Thereafter, licenses expire annually. License fees for the license term implementing staggered license terms will be prorated by the department.

History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5604(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 350, L. 1997.

50-52-204. Local board to report number of licensees to department. Before June 1 of each year, the local board of health shall submit to the department a list of the establishments in each jurisdiction which are licensed under this part.

History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5604(part).

Cross-References
Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-52-205. Cancellation of license. The department may cancel a license if it finds, after proper investigation, that the licensee has violated this chapter or a rule effective under this chapter and the licensee has failed or refused to remedy or correct the violation.

History: En. Sec. 217, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5606(part).

50-52-206. Submission of plan of correction as bar to cancellation. Submission to the department of an acceptable plan of correction within 10 days after receipt from the department of written notice of violation and execution of an acceptable plan within the time prescribed in the written notice of approval of the plan by the department shall be a bar to prosecution for violation.

History: En. Sec. 217, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5606(part).

50-52-207. Notice and hearing required. A license may not be denied or canceled by the department without delivery to the applicant or licensee of a written statement of the grounds for denial or cancellation or the charge involved and an opportunity to answer at a hearing before the department to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled. In this case, the licensee must make a written request to the department for a hearing within 10 days after notice of the grounds or charges has been received.

History: En. Sec. 217, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5606(2).

Cross-References
Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-52-208. Notification of and validation by local health officer. (1) A license issued by the department under this chapter is not valid until signed by the local health officer in the county where the establishment is located.

(2) The local health officer shall, within 15 days after the department has notified the local health officer of its decision to issue a license under this chapter, make a final decision on whether the license will be validated.

(3) Failure of the local health officer to validate the license within 15 days after its receipt is a refusal.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 1979.

Cross-References
Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-52-209. Refusal by local health officer — appeal to board. (1) The local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued under this chapter only upon a finding that the requirements of this chapter and any rules implementing it are not satisfied. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license, the officer shall notify the applicant and the department in writing stating the officer's reasons.

(2) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the local health officer not to validate a license may appeal the decision to the local board of health within 30 days after receiving written notice of the local health officer's decision.

(3) The hearing before the local board of health must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1860, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References
Contested cases — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-52-210. Special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is allocated to the department to be used to administer the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 731, L. 1991.

Cross-References
State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-52-211. Right to renewal. (1) The department shall renew licenses as a matter of right, unless conditions exist that are grounds for cancellation or denial of a license.

(2) Renewal may be obtained annually by paying the required annual license fee.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 350, L. 1997.

Part 3
Inspections

Part Cross-References

Sanitation in subdivisions, Title 76, ch. 4, part 1.

50-52-301. Health officers and sanitarians to make investigations and inspections. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians shall make investigations and inspections of establishments and make reports to the department as required under rules adopted by the department.

History: En. Sec. 216, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5605; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 341, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 731, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Licensing of sanitarians, Title 37, ch. 40.
Sanitarian-in-training defined, 37-40-101.
Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-52-302. Department to pay local board for inspection and enforcement. (1) Before June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a local board of health, as established under 50-2-104, 50-2-106, or 50-2-107, an amount from the local board inspection fund account created in 50-2-108 that must be used only for the purpose of inspecting establishments licensed under this chapter and enforcing the provisions of this chapter; provided, however, that:

(a) there is a functioning local board of health; and

(b) the local board of health, local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians:

(i) assist in inspections and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it; and

(ii) meet minimum program performance standards as established under rules adopted by the department.

(2) The funds received by the local board of health pursuant to subsection (1) must be deposited with the appropriate local fiscal authority and must be used to supplement, but not supplant, other funds received by the local board of health that in the absence of funding received under subsection (1) would be made available for the same purpose.

(3) Funds in the local board inspection fund account not paid to the local board of health as provided in subsection (1) may be used by the department, within any jurisdiction that does not qualify to receive payments from the local board inspection fund, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5604(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 336, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 731, L. 1991.

50-52-303. Health officers and sanitarians to have access to establishments. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians must be provided free access to establishments at all reasonable hours for the purpose of conducting investigations and inspections as required under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 731, L. 1991.

CHAPTER 53
PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SWIMMING AREAS

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50-53-102. Definitions.
50-53-103. Department rules.
50-53-104. Powers of health officers — enforcement authority.
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50-53-201. License required — validation.
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50-53-212. Administrative enforcement — notice — department hearing.
50-53-213. Compliance with corrective action plan as bar to further administrative enforcement.
50-53-214. Return of license for alteration or destruction.
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50-53-218. Department to pay board for inspections or enforcement, or both.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Plans to bear professional seal, 18-2-122.

50-53-101. Purpose of regulation. It is the public policy of this state to regulate public swimming pools and public bathing places to protect public health and safety.

History: En. Sec. 201, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 646, L. 1985.

50-53-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Lazy river" means a constructed watercourse through which people travel by use of flotation devices.

(3) "Local board of health" or "board" means a local board as defined in 50-1-101.

(4) "Local health officer" or "officer" means a local health officer as defined in 50-1-101.

(5) "Person" means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or organization or the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(6) "Public bathing place" means a body of water with bathhouses and related appurtenances operated for the public.

(7) (a) "Public swimming pool" means an artificial pool and related appurtenances for swimming, bathing, wading, or other aquatic therapy or recreation, including but not limited to natural hot water pools, spas, splash decks, water slides, lazy rivers, and wave pools.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) swimming pools located on private property, including the private common area property of owner-occupied condominium developments, used for swimming or bathing only by the owner, members of the owner's family, or their invited guests; or

(ii) medicinal hot water baths for individual use.

(8) "Spa" means an artificial pool that is designed for recreational bathing or therapeutic use and that is not drained, cleaned, or refilled for individual use. A spa includes but is not limited to a therapeutic pool, hydrotherapy pool, whirlpool, hot tub, or Jacuzzi-type whirlpool bath.

(9) "Splash deck" means a constructed area over which water is sprayed but is not allowed to pool.

(10) "Tourist home" means a private home or condominium that is not occupied by an owner or manager and that is rented, leased, or furnished in its entirety to transient guests on a daily or weekly basis.

(11) "Wading pool" means a pool in which the water depth does not exceed 2 feet.

(12) "Wave pool" means a swimming pool designed for the purpose of producing wave action in the water.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 202, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 69-5502, R.C.M. 1947; (1), (2) En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-4102, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4102(1), (2), 69-5502; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 646, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 318, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 2007.

50-53-103. Department rules. (1) The department shall adopt rules relating to the operation of public swimming pools and public bathing places, including rules:

(a) setting standards to ensure sanitation and safety in public swimming pools and public bathing places to protect public health and safety;

(b) imposing reasonable fees for review of plans relating to the design, construction, reconstruction, alteration, conversion, repair, and installation of equipment and for plan review when plan review is conducted by the department;

(c) relating to the licensing of operators of public swimming pools and public bathing places, including allowing for training courses, testing, and recertification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation or pool operator certification to be conducted in person, online, or through other virtual methods;

(d) providing procedures for the enforcement of the laws and rules relating to public swimming pools and public bathing places;

(e) relating to cooperative agreements between the department and local boards of health; and

(f) setting performance standards for local boards of health, local health officers, and sanitarians to meet as a condition to receipt of funds provided by the department pursuant to 50-53-218.

(2) Any rule relating to the design, construction, reconstruction, alteration, conversion, repair, inspection, or use of buildings or installation of equipment in buildings is effective only when it has been adopted by the department of labor and industry as part of the state building code and filed with the secretary of state pursuant to 50-60-204.

History: En. Secs. 203, 204, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 104, 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5503, 69-5504; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 646, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Rules for facilities at hotels and motels, 50-51-103.

50-53-104. Powers of health officers — enforcement authority. Authorized employees of the department and local boards of health may:

(1) at reasonable times inspect public swimming pools and public bathing places and otherwise conduct investigations to determine if provisions of this chapter and rules of the department have been or are being violated and make reports to the department concerning the inspections;

(2) request an injunction from the district court to enjoin actions in violation of this chapter or rules adopted by the department;

(3) bring actions to abate nuisances maintained in violation of this chapter in the manner provided by law for the summary abatement of other public nuisances;

(4) file complaints with the district court for assessment of the penalties provided for in 50-53-216 or for recovery of costs provided for in 50-53-217, or both.

History: En. Sec. 205, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5505; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 708, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

50-53-105. Publication of inspection reports. The department may publish reports of inspections authorized by 50-53-104(1).

History: **En. Sec. 206, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5506.**

50-53-106. Duties of pool operators. Each person operating a public swimming pool or public bathing place shall:

(1) operate the pool or public bathing place in a sanitary and safe manner;

(2) keep records of public health and safety information required by the department;

(3) furnish information to the department on forms prescribed by it.

History: **En. Sec. 208, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5508.**

50-53-107. Pool operation to be sanitary, healthful, and safe — when lifeguard not required. (1) Public swimming pools and public bathing places, including pool structures, methods of operation, source of water supply, methods of water purification, lifesaving apparatus, safety measures for bathers, and personal cleanliness measures for bathers, must be sanitary, healthful, and safe.

(2) A lifeguard is not required for a privately owned public swimming pool if:

(a) a sign is prominently displayed on the swimming pool premises with the words "No lifeguard is on duty" or words of substantially the same meaning; and

(b) one individual per shift is on the premises, accessible to the pool, and currently certified as competent in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by either the American red cross or the American heart association.

(3) Tourist homes providing spa facilities to their guests shall prominently display a sign on the spa premises with the words "No lifeguard is on duty" or words of substantially the same meaning. Tourist homes providing spa facilities to their guests are exempt from the requirements of subsection (2)(b).

History: **En. Sec. 209, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5509; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2003.**

50-53-108. Unauthorized construction or operation a public nuisance. The construction or operation of a public swimming pool or public bathing place contrary to the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department under the provisions of this chapter is a public nuisance and dangerous to public health and safety.

History: **En. Sec. 210, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5510; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 646, L. 1985.**

Cross-References

Public nuisance, Title 27, ch. 30, part 2.

Local boards of health — power to abate nuisances, 50-2-116.

50-53-109. Violation of chapter a misdemeanor. A person who violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department under the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $500, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. Each day that a violation continues is a separate violation.

History: **En. Sec. 211, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5511.**

50-53-110 through 50-53-114 reserved.

50-53-115. Special requirements for flow-through hot springs pools. In addition to the other requirements of this chapter and rules promulgated under this chapter, flow-through hot springs pools must meet the following requirements:

(1) The temperature of the pool water must be 106 degrees F or less.

(2) The water must have sufficient clarity at all times so that a black disc, 6 inches in diameter, is readily visible when placed on a white field at the deepest point of the pool.

(3) The pool water must be maintained at a pH of no less than 7.2 and not greater than 9.4.

(4) The pool must provide sufficient water volume exchange to produce an 8-hour turnover of the entire volume of pool water to waste. In addition:

(a) the pool, and all surfaces that flow into the pool, must be drained, cleaned, and sanitized every 72 hours; or

(b) the pool must be disinfected, and a chlorine residual of 1 to 3 parts per million or a bromine residual of 3 to 6 parts per million must be maintained in the pool at all times.

(5) Signs must be prominently posted that specify pool rules and special health hazards associated with swimming or bathing in flow-through hot springs pools. The contents of the signs must be determined by department rule. The department, in developing rules under this section, shall consult with flow-through hot springs pool owners.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2007.**

Part 2
Licensure of Public Swimming Pools and Bathing Places

50-53-201. License required — validation. (1) A person may not operate a public swimming pool or public bathing place without annually obtaining a license from the department.

(2) A license is required for each separate public swimming pool or public bathing place. A public swimming pool is separate if:

(a) its water does not commingle with water from any other public swimming pool; or

(b) it is serviced by a separate water filtration system.

(3) A license issued by the department is not valid unless signed in accordance with 50-53-206, if applicable, or in accordance with 50-53-207, in the case of an appeal.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 218, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 93, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 310, L. 2007.**

50-53-202. Application for and right to license. (1) An application for both an original and renewal license to operate a public swimming pool or public bathing place must be made to the department, must contain the information required by the department, and must be accompanied by the fee provided for in 50-53-203.

(2) A license must be issued to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements for a license provided in part 1, this part, and department rules.

(3) Upon issuing a license, the department shall forward the license to the appropriate local health officer for validation as provided in 50-53-206, if applicable.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 219, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 310, L. 2007.**

50-53-203. License fee and late fee — disposition. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), each application for an original or renewal license must be accompanied by a license fee of $200.

(b) Each application for an original or renewal license for a spa or wading pool with a total water capacity not exceeding 4,000 gallons must be accompanied by a license fee of $75.

(2) An operator of a public swimming pool or public bathing place who fails to renew a license by the expiration date provided in 50-53-204 and who operates the public swimming pool or public bathing place in the license year for which a renewal fee was not paid shall, upon renewal, pay to the department a late renewal fee of $25 for each calendar month after the renewal due date in addition to the renewal fee required by subsection (1). Payment of the late renewal fee does not relieve the operator of responsibility for any operation without a license.

(3) If the local board of health conducts its own inspections and enforcement activities for the public swimming pools and public bathing places within its jurisdiction:

(a) the department shall deposit 85% of the fees collected under subsection (1) in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the local board inspection fund account created by 50-2-108. Money deposited in the local board inspection fund account is subject to appropriation by the legislature for the purposes of 50-53-218.

(b) the department shall deposit 15% of the fees collected under subsection (1) and all the fees collected under subsection (2) in an account in the state special revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department for the enforcement of part 1 and this part.

(4) If the local board of health has delegated its inspection and enforcement activities for public swimming pools and public bathing places to the department, the department shall deposit all of the fees collected under subsections (1) and (2) in an account in the state special revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department for the enforcement of part 1 and this part.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 220, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 310, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-53-204. License expiration — nontransferability. (1) A license issued under part 1 and this part expires on December 31 of the year of issuance unless it is suspended or canceled by the department before that date.

(2) A license issued under part 1 and this part is not transferable.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 221, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

50-53-205 reserved.

50-53-206. Validation of license required. (1) (a) If the local board of health conducts its own inspections and enforcement activities for the public swimming pools and public bathing places within its jurisdiction, a license issued by the department under part 1 and this part is not valid until it is signed by the local health officer of the jurisdiction in which the public swimming pool or public bathing place is located.

(b) The local health officer shall, within 15 days of receipt of the license, validate or refuse to validate the license. Failure of the officer to validate a license is a refusal for the purposes of 50-53-207.

(2) Validation is not required if the local board of health has delegated its inspection and enforcement activities for public swimming pools and public bathing places to the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 222, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 310, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-53-207. Refusal of health officer to validate — appeal to board. (1) A local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued by the department under part 1 and this part only if the officer determines that the license applicant has not met the requirements for the issuance of a license under part 1, this part, and department rules. If the local health officer refuses to validate a license, the officer shall notify the license applicant and the department of the refusal within 5 days of the officer's decision. The notice must state the grounds for the refusal.

(2) The license applicant may appeal the decision of the local health officer to the local board of health by filing a written notice of appeal with the officer and the board within 30 days of the officer's refusal or within 30 days of the expiration of the period for the officer's decision under 50-53-206, whichever is first.

(3) Upon filing the notice of appeal, the license applicant is entitled to a hearing before the board to determine the applicant's eligibility for a license under part 1, this part, and department rules. The hearing must be held pursuant to the contested case procedure of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. If the board finds that the applicant is entitled to a validated license, the presiding officer of the board shall validate the license by signing the license.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 223, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Contested cases — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

Local health officer defined, 50-1-101.

50-53-208 reserved.

50-53-209. Cooperative agreements — inspections. (1) The department may enter into cooperative agreements with local boards of health to authorize those boards to act as agents of the department and to conduct inspections of and enforce applicable statutes and department rules relating to public swimming pools and public bathing places within the jurisdictions of the respective boards.

(2) The department or a local board of health, pursuant to a cooperative agreement, shall annually conduct:

(a) at least one full facility inspection and one critical point inspection of each public swimming pool or public bathing place operated throughout the year; and

(b) at least one full facility inspection of each seasonal public swimming pool or public bathing place.

(3) The department shall enter into cooperative agreements with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and other state agencies that operate public swimming pools or public bathing places to address the enforcement of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 93, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Local boards of health, Title 50, ch. 2.

50-53-210 reserved.

50-53-211. Denial, suspension, or cancellation of license — multiple pool facility. (1) The department may deny, suspend, or cancel a license if it finds that the license applicant or licensee has violated part 1, this part, or department rules and has failed or refused to remedy or correct the violation in accordance with the procedure provided in 50-53-213.

(2) If the license of an operator who operates more than one public swimming pool under one license is denied, suspended, or canceled, the use of all of the public swimming pools on the premises must cease unless the department determines that the violation for which the license was denied, suspended, or canceled does not affect the operation or the use of all of the public swimming pools on the premises.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 224, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

50-53-212. Administrative enforcement — notice — department hearing. (1) A license may not be denied, suspended, or canceled or corrective action may not be ordered by the department unless the department delivers to the license applicant or licensee a written notice of violation that contains a written statement of the facts constituting the violation and a citation to the statute or rule of the department alleged to have been violated. Further administrative enforcement action may not be taken by the department pursuant to the notice if within 10 days after receipt of the notice, the license applicant or licensee complies with the provisions of 50-53-213.

(2) The department may combine with any notice issued under subsection (1) an order for the suspension or cancellation of a license or for corrective action as the department finds necessary to remedy the violation evidenced in the notice. The order becomes final 10 days after service unless within that time the license applicant or licensee requests a hearing pursuant to subsection (4) or submits a corrective action plan in accordance with 50-53-213.

(3) The department may combine with any notice or order issued under subsection (1) or (2) an order for the license applicant or licensee to appear before the department within a time specified by the department and show cause why the department should not deny, suspend, or cancel the license or otherwise order compliance with part 1, this part, and the rules of the department.

(4) A hearing request by a license applicant or licensee must be made in writing to the department and must specify the mistake in the facts or law relied on by the department. A hearing held pursuant to this section must be held in accordance with the contested case procedure of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. Following a hearing, the department may issue an appropriate order. Service of notice or an order mailed by the department is complete upon mailing.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 225, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-53-213. Compliance with corrective action plan as bar to further administrative enforcement. The department may not deny, suspend, or cancel the license or require corrective action of an operator of a public swimming pool or public bathing place who received a notice of violation from the department pursuant to 50-53-212 if:

(1) the operator submits a plan to correct the violation to the department within 10 days of service of the notice;

(2) the department approves the plan in writing, including the time in which the plan must be complied with; and

(3) the operator complies with the plan within the time period prescribed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 708, L. 1991.

50-53-214. Return of license for alteration or destruction. Upon cancellation of a license or the right to operate one or more public swimming pools under a single license for the premises, the operator of the public swimming pool shall return the license to the department for destruction of the license or deletion of the listing of the public swimming pool affected by the cancellation. Cancellation by the department of a license to operate a public swimming pool is effective notwithstanding the refusal or failure of an operator to return the license to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 708, L. 1991.**

50-53-215 reserved.

50-53-216. Civil penalties — other enforcement not barred. (1) A person who violates a provision of part 1, this part, department rules implementing those sections, an order of the department, or any condition of a license issued by the department is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500 for each violation.

(2) An action for collection of a civil penalty under this section does not bar administrative enforcement under 50-53-212, an action for injunctive relief under 50-53-104, or enforcement under 50-53-109.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 226, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

50-53-217. Recovery of costs by department or local jurisdiction. In a civil or criminal action brought by the department or a local jurisdiction to enforce the requirements of part 1 and this part, the rules of the department, or any condition of a license or to assess civil penalties and in an action brought by the department to enforce an order of the department, the court may, in the case of an intentional violation of part 1 and this part, assess the operator of the public swimming pool or public bathing place for the costs of any investigation and the costs of the civil or criminal action, including reasonable attorney fees.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 227, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

50-53-218. Department to pay board for inspections or enforcement, or both. (1) By June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a local board of health established under 50-2-104, 50-2-106, or 50-2-107 an amount from the local board inspection fund account, created by 50-2-108, for the purpose of inspecting public swimming pools and public bathing places licensed under part 1 and this part or for taking appropriate enforcement action with respect to the public swimming pools and public bathing places, or for both inspection and enforcement. The payment required by this section must be made to a board only if the board and any local health officer and sanitarian for the jurisdiction of the board meet the program performance standards established by department rules.

(2) Money received by the board pursuant to subsection (1) may be used only for the purpose of inspections and enforcement under part 1 and this part and must be used to supplement and not supplant other money received by the board for the same purpose.

(3) The department may use money in the local board inspection fund account appropriated to the department for the enforcement of part 1, this part, and the rules of the department and for inspections to determine compliance with those sections and rules in any local jurisdiction not receiving payment under subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 708, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

CHAPTERS 54 THROUGH 56
RESERVED

CHAPTER 57
WHOLESALE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

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50-57-301. Health officers and sanitarians to make investigations and inspections.
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50-57-303 and 50-57-304 reserved.
50-57-305. Department to pay local health board for inspections and enforcement.

Chapter Cross-References

Retail food establishments, Title 50, ch. 50.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-57-101. Purpose. This chapter provides for the licensure and regulation of wholesale food establishments to prevent and eliminate conditions and practices that endanger public health.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 2007.

50-57-102. Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Consumer" means a person who:

(a) is a member of the public;

(b) takes possession of food;

(c) is not functioning in the capacity of an operator of an establishment; and

(d) does not offer the food for resale.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Dietary supplement" means a product, other than a tobacco product, that is intended to supplement the diet and:

(a) is advertised only as a food supplement; and

(b) bears or contains one or more of the following ingredients:

(i) a vitamin;

(ii) a mineral;

(iii) an herb or other botanical substance;

(iv) an amino acid; or

(v) a dietary substance used to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or a combination of any ingredients described in subsections (3)(b)(i) through (3)(b)(iv).

(4) "Establishment" means a wholesale food manufacturing establishment, wholesale food salvage establishment, wholesale food warehouse, wholesale ice manufacturer, or wholesale water bottler.

(5) (a) "Food" means an edible substance, beverage, or ingredient used, intended for use, or for sale for human consumption. The term includes dietary supplements.

(b) The term does not include nonprescription drugs.

(6) "Local board of health" means a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(7) "Local health officer" means a county, city, city-county, or district health officer appointed by the local board of health or the health officer's authorized representative.

(8) "Regulatory authority" means the department, the local board of health, the local health officer, or the local sanitarian.

(9) "Retail" means the provision of food directly to the consumer.

(10) "Retail food establishment" has the meaning provided in 50-50-102.

(11) (a) "Wholesale" means the sale or provision of food to a retail food establishment or to another person engaged in retail sales who sells or provides the food directly to the consumer.

(b) The term does not include the sale or provision of food at retail.

(12) (a) "Wholesale food manufacturing establishment" means a facility and the facility's buildings or structures used to manufacture or prepare food for human consumption at wholesale.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) milk producers' facilities, milk pasteurization facilities, or milk product manufacturing plants;

(ii) slaughterhouses, meat packing plants, or meat depots; or

(iii) producers or harvesters of raw and unprocessed farm products.

(13) "Wholesale food salvage establishment" means an entity that is engaged in reconditioning or by other means salvaging distressed food or that sells, buys, or distributes for human consumption any salvaged food. The term includes a salvage broker, a salvage operator, and a salvage warehouse.

(14) (a) "Wholesale food warehouse" means a facility used to store food or cosmetics for distribution to retailers.

(b) The term includes a frozen food plant that is used to freeze, process, or store food, including any facility used in conjunction with the frozen food plant.

(c) The term does not include a wine, beer, or soft drink warehouse that is separate from facilities where brewing or drink manufacturing occurs.

(15) (a) "Wholesale ice manufacturer" means an entity that produces ice for human consumption that is sold at wholesale in packaged form or in bulk form for food, drink, or culinary purposes.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) persons, hotels, restaurants, inns, caterers, food service contractors, or theaters that manufacture or furnish ice solely for their customers in a manner that is incidental to the production, sale, or dispensing of other goods and services; or

(ii) a retail food establishment that manufactures ice in packaged form for onsite retail sales to the consumer.

(16) (a) "Wholesale water bottler" means an entity that is engaged in the production, packaging, manufacturing, or processing of drinking water, culinary bottled water, or water otherwise processed and packaged for human consumption that is sold at wholesale.

(b) The term does not include a facility that produces, packages, manufactures, or processes drinking water, culinary bottled water, or water otherwise processed and packaged for human consumption onsite for retail sale.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 395, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 239, L. 2015.**

50-57-103. Department authorized to adopt rules. (1) The department shall adopt rules relating to the operation of establishments, including rules:

(a) setting standards to ensure sanitation and safety in establishments to protect public health and safety;

(b) relating to the licensing of establishments;

(c) providing procedures for enforcement of the laws and rules relating to establishments;

(d) relating to cooperative agreements between the department and local boards of health; and

(e) setting performance standards for local boards of health, local health officers, and sanitarians to meet as a condition to receipt of funds provided by the department pursuant to 50-57-305.

(2) To the extent feasible, the rules must be consistent with rules adopted to implement chapter 50.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-104. Cooperative agreements authorized. The department may enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and political subdivisions of the state to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-105. Diseased person not to handle food. A person who has a communicable disease, as defined in 50-1-101, may not work in any establishment or in the handling or processing of food.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 395, L. 2007.

50-57-106. Injunctions. The regulatory authority may bring an action for an injunction against the continuation of an alleged violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the department under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-107. County attorney to prosecute violations. When the regulatory authority furnishes evidence to the county attorney of a county in this state, the county attorney shall prosecute any person, firm, or corporation violating this chapter or a rule adopted by the department under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-108. Violation — misdemeanor. A person who purposefully or knowingly violates provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the person shall be:

(1) fined an amount of not less than $50 or more than $100 for the first offense;

(2) fined an amount of not less than $75 or more than $200 for the second offense;

(3) fined an amount of not less than $200 and imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 90 days for the third offense and subsequent offenses.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-109. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred. (1) An establishment that violates this chapter or rules adopted by the department under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500.

(2) A civil action to impose penalties, as provided under this section, does not bar a prosecution under 50-57-107 and 50-57-108 or injunctions to enforce compliance with this chapter or to enforce compliance with a rule adopted by the department under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-110. Costs and expenses — recovery by department or county. In a civil action initiated by the regulatory authority under this chapter, the court may, by petition of the regulatory authority, order an establishment that is found to be in willful violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter to pay the costs of investigations and any other expenses incurred in enforcing the provisions of this chapter. These costs are limited to the direct costs of investigations and other expenses.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

Part 2
Licensing

50-57-201. License required. (1) A person operating an establishment shall procure an annual license from the department.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a separate license is required for each establishment, but if more than one type of establishment is operated on the same premises and under the same management, only one license is required.

(3) A person operating an establishment and a retail food establishment is required to obtain a separate license for the establishment under this chapter and for the retail food establishment under Title 50, chapter 50.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-202 reserved.

50-57-203. Application for license. An application for a license must be made to the department on forms containing information required by the department, or the application must be made in compliance with the rules established by the board of review established in 30-16-302.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-204 reserved.

50-57-205. License fee — late renewal fee — allocation of fees. (1) For each annual license issued or renewed, the department shall collect a fee of $115.

(2) A person operating an establishment who fails to renew a license by the expiration date provided in 50-57-206 and who operates the establishment in the license year for which an annual renewal fee was not paid shall, upon renewal, pay to the department a late renewal fee of $25 in addition to the annual renewal fee required by subsection (1). Payment of the late renewal fee does not relieve the operator of responsibility for operating without a license.

(3) The department shall deposit the annual fees collected under subsection (1) as follows:

(a) 90% into the state special revenue fund to the credit of the local board inspection fund account, created in 50-2-108;

(b) 5% into the general fund; and

(c) 5% into the account created in 50-57-213 in the state special revenue fund.

(4) The department shall deposit all of the fees collected under subsection (2) into the account created by 50-57-213 in the state special revenue fund.

History: En. Secs. 13, 14, Ch. 474, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 482, L. 2009.

50-57-206. License expiration — nontransferability. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), licenses expire on December 31 of the year in which they are issued unless canceled for cause.

(2) If the board of review adopts a renewal date for licenses under this chapter, the licenses expire on the anniversary date established by rule by the board of review.

(3) Licenses are not transferable.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-207. Right to renewal. (1) License renewal may be obtained annually by paying the required annual license fee provided for in 50-57-205.

(2) The department shall renew licenses as a matter of right, unless conditions exist that are grounds for cancellation or denial of a license.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-208. Validation by local health officer. (1) A license issued by the department is not valid until it is signed by the local health officer of the local board of health with jurisdiction where the establishment is located.

(2) The local health officer shall validate or refuse to validate the license within 15 days of the receipt of the license.

(3) The failure of the local health officer to validate the license within 15 days after its receipt is a refusal.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-209. Refusal of local health officer to validate — appeal to board. (1) A local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued by the department only if the local health officer determines that the applicant has not met the requirements for the issuance of the license under this chapter or rules adopted by the department under this chapter. The local health officer shall notify the applicant and the department of the refusal within 5 days of the decision not to validate. The notice must state the grounds for the refusal.

(2) The applicant may appeal the decision of the local health officer to the local board of health by filing a written notice of appeal with the local health officer and the local board of health within 30 days of the local health officer's refusal to validate a license or within 30 days of the expiration of the period for the local health officer's decision under 50-57-208, whichever is first.

(3) Upon the filing of the notice of appeal, the applicant is entitled to a hearing before the local board of health to determine the applicant's eligibility for a license under this chapter and department rules adopted under this chapter. The hearing must be held pursuant to the contested case procedure of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. If the local board of health finds that the applicant is entitled to a validated license, the presiding officer of the local board of health shall validate the license by signing the license.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-210. Cancellation of license — multiple establishments. (1) The department may deny or cancel a license if it finds, after proper investigation, that the applicant or licensee has violated or is not in compliance with this chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter and that the applicant or licensee has failed or refused to remedy or correct the noncompliance or violation.

(2) When more than one type of establishment is authorized by one license, as provided in 50-57-201(2), the denial or cancellation may affect one, some, or all of the types of establishments as determined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-211. Submission and execution of plan of correction as bar to cancellation. An applicant or licensee may submit to the department a written plan of correction within 10 days after receipt from the department of a written notice of violation. The department shall determine if the plan of correction is acceptable. The submission and execution of an acceptable plan of correction within the time prescribed in the plan are a bar to license cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-212. Notice and hearing required. (1) A license may not be denied or canceled by the department without delivery to the applicant or licensee of a written statement of the grounds for denial or cancellation and an opportunity for a hearing before the department to show cause, if any, why the license should not be denied or canceled.

(2) The applicant or licensee shall make a written request to the department for a hearing within 10 days after notice of the grounds for denial or cancellation has been received.

(3) The hearing must be held in accordance with the contested case procedure of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. After a hearing, the department may issue an appropriate order. Service of notice or an order mailed by the department is complete upon mailing.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-213. Special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is allocated to the department to be used to administer the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

Part 3
Inspections

50-57-301. Health officers and sanitarians to make investigations and inspections. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians shall conduct investigations and inspections of establishments and make reports to the department as required under rules adopted by the department.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-302. Health officers and sanitarians to have free access. State and local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians must be provided free access to establishments at all reasonable hours for the purpose of conducting investigations and inspections as required under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

50-57-303 and 50-57-304 reserved.

50-57-305. Department to pay local health board for inspections and enforcement. (1) Before June 30 of each year, the department shall pay to a local board of health an amount from the local board inspection fund account, created in 50-2-108, that may be used only for the purpose of inspecting establishments under this chapter and enforcing the provisions of this chapter. However, a payment may be made only if:

(a) there is a functioning local board of health; and

(b) the local board of health, local health officers, sanitarians-in-training, and registered sanitarians:

(i) assist in inspections and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter; and

(ii) meet minimum program performance standards as established under rules adopted by the department.

(2) The funds received by the local board of health pursuant to subsection (1) must be deposited with the appropriate local fiscal authority and must be used to supplement, but not supplant, other funds received by the local board of health that in the absence of funding received under subsection (1) would be made available for the same purpose.

(3) Funds in the local board inspection fund account not paid to the local board of health, as provided in subsection (1), may be used by the department, within any jurisdiction that does not qualify to receive payments from the local board inspection fund account, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 474, L. 2003.

CHAPTERS 58 AND 59
RESERVED

CHAPTER 60
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

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Part 1
General Provisions

50-60-101. Definitions. As used in parts 1 through 4 and 7 of this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Alteration" means any change, addition, or modification in construction or occupancy.

(2) "Building" means a combination of any materials, whether mobile, portable, or fixed, to form a structure and the related facilities for the use or occupancy by persons or property. The term must be construed as though followed by the words "or part or parts of a building".

(3) (a) "Building regulations" means any law, rule, resolution, regulation, ordinance, or code, general or special, or compilation of laws, rules, resolutions, regulations, ordinances, or codes enacted or adopted by the state or any municipality, including departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, or other agencies of the state or a municipality relating to the design, construction, reconstruction, alteration, conversion, repair, inspection, or use of buildings and installation of equipment in buildings.

(b) The term does not include zoning ordinances.

(4) "City or town" means an incorporated city or town as provided for in Title 7, chapter 2, part 41.

(5) "Code enforcement program" means the plan for enforcement of the building regulations adopted by a municipality or county and includes the local building department and the staff associated with executing any aspect of the program's purposes or functions.

(6) "Construction" means the original construction and equipment of buildings and requirements or standards relating to or affecting materials used, including provisions for safety and sanitary conditions.

(7) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 17.

(8) "Equipment" means plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilating, air-conditioning, and refrigerating equipment, elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and other mechanical additions or installations.

(9) (a) "Factory-built building" means a factory-assembled structure or structures equipped with the necessary service connections but not made so as to be readily movable as a unit or units and designed to be used with a permanent foundation.

(b) The term does not include manufactured housing constructed after June 15, 1976, under the National Mobile Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5401, et seq.

(10) "Local building department" means the agency or agencies of a county, city, or town charged with the administration, supervision, or enforcement of building regulations, the approval of plans, the inspection of buildings, or the issuance of permits, licenses, certificates, and similar documents prescribed or required by state or local building regulations.

(11) "Local legislative body" means the council or commission charged with governing the county, city, or town.

(12) "Owner" means the owner or owners of the premises or lesser estate, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, or other person, firm, or corporation in control of a building.

(13) (a) "Primary function area" means an area of a building or facility in which a major activity for which the building or facility is designed is carried out. Primary function areas include but are not limited to a customer service lobby of a savings institution, a cafeteria dining area, and meeting rooms of a conference center.

(b) Areas that are not primary function areas include but are not limited to boiler rooms, storage rooms, employee lounges, janitorial closets, entrances, corridors, and restrooms.

(14) "Public building" means a building or facility owned or operated by a governmental entity or a private sector building or facility that is open to members of the public.

(15) "Public sidewalk" means a sidewalk located in a public right-of-way.

(16) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use that either has its own mode of power or is mounted on or towed by another vehicle, including but not limited to a:

(a) travel trailer;

(b) camping trailer;

(c) truck camper; or

(d) motor home.

(17) "Site" means a parcel of land bounded by property lines or a designated portion of a public right-of-way.

(18) "State agency" means any state officer, department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of this state.

(19) "State building code" means the state building code provided for in 50-60-203 or any portion of the code of limited application and any of its modifications or amendments.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 459, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2105; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 229, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-102. Applicability — local government energy conservation standards. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the state building code, as defined in 50-60-203(3), does not apply to:

(a) residential buildings containing less than five dwelling units or their attached-to structures, any farm or ranch building of any size, and any private garage or private storage structure of any size used only for the owner's own use, located within a county, city, or town, unless the local legislative body by ordinance or resolution makes the state building code applicable to these structures;

(b) mines and buildings on mine property regulated under Title 82, chapter 4, and subject to inspection under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act;

(c) petroleum refineries and pulp and paper mills, except a structure classified under chapter 7, section 701, group B, division 2, and chapter 9, section 901, group H, outside of process units, of the 1991 edition of the Uniform Building Code;

(d) industrial process piping, vessels, and equipment and process-related structures located outside of another structure occupied on a regular basis by employees or the public; or

(e) traffic control signals, street lighting, traffic control signs, and other traffic control devices.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (5), the state may not enforce the state building code under 50-60-205 for the buildings and equipment referred to in subsection (1). A county, city, or town that has made the state building code applicable to the buildings referred to in subsection (1) may enforce within the area of its jurisdiction the state building code as adopted by the county, city, or town.

(3) When good and sufficient cause exists, a written request for limitation of the state building code may be filed with the department for filing as a permanent record.

(4) The department may limit the application of any rule or portion of the state building code to include or exclude:

(a) specified classes or types of buildings according to use or other distinctions as may make differentiation or separate classification or regulation necessary, proper, or desirable; or

(b) specified areas of the state based on size, population density, special conditions prevailing in the area, or other factors that make differentiation or separate classification or regulation necessary, proper, or desirable.

(5) (a) Subject to subsection (6), for purposes of promoting the energy efficiency of home design and operation, the provisions of the state building code relating to energy conservation adopted pursuant to 50-60-203(1) apply to residential buildings, except:

(i) farm and ranch buildings; and

(ii) any private garage or private storage structure attached to a residential building and used only for the owner's own use.

(b) Subject to subsection (6), the provisions of the state building code relating to energy conservation in residential buildings are enforceable:

(i) by the department only for those residential buildings containing five or more dwelling units or otherwise subject to the state building code; and

(ii) through the builder self-certification program provided for in 50-60-802 for those residential buildings containing less than five dwelling units and not otherwise subject to the state building code.

(6) (a) A county, city, or town with a building code enforcement program may, as part of its building code or by town ordinance or resolution, adopt voluntary energy conservation standards for new construction for the purpose of providing incentives to encourage voluntary energy conservation. The incentive-based standards adopted may exceed any applicable energy conservation standards contained in the state building code.

(b) New construction is not required to meet local standards that exceed state energy conservation standards unless the building contractor elects to receive a local incentive.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2107; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 555, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Municipal power to regulate, restrain, or prevent dangerous factories, 7-33-4207.

50-60-103. Administration by department. The department shall administer parts 1 through 7 and for that purpose shall:

(1) issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of parts 1 through 7 and enforce the orders by all appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings;

(2) enter, inspect, and examine buildings or premises necessary for the proper performance of its duties under parts 1 through 7;

(3) study the operation of the state building code, local building regulations, and other laws related to the construction of buildings to ascertain their effects upon the cost of building construction and the effectiveness of their provisions for health and safety;

(4) recommend tests or require the testing and approval of materials, devices, and methods of construction to ascertain their acceptability under the requirements of the state building code and issue certification of the acceptability;

(5) appoint experts, consultants, and technical advisers for assistance and recommendations relative to the formulation and adoption of the state building code;

(6) advise, consult, and cooperate with other agencies of the state, local governments, industries, and interested persons or groups; and

(7) consult with the building codes council, established in 50-60-115, on all rules and interpretations of building code provisions and on the checklist for the examination of single-family dwelling construction plans provided for in 50-60-118.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2109; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 473, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 2005.

50-60-104. Inspection fees. The department shall establish a schedule of fees and may collect fees for the inspection of plans and specifications and for the inspection of buildings, factory-built buildings, or any other facility or structure. The fees must be commensurate with the cost of the inspections and with appropriations for other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2124(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 346, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Inspection of passenger tramways, Title 23, ch. 2, part 7.

50-60-105. Hearings authorized. The department may hold hearings relating to the administration of parts 1 through 7 in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 116, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 504, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2111(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 68, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

50-60-106. Powers and duties of counties, cities, and towns. (1) As allowed by Title 50, chapter 60, part 3, the examination, approval, or disapproval of plans and specifications, the issuance and revocation of building permits, licenses, certificates, and similar documents, the inspection of buildings, and the administration and enforcement of building regulations within the limits of a city or town are the responsibility of the city or town. The examination, approval, or disapproval of plans and specifications, the issuance and revocation of building permits, licenses, certificates, and similar documents, the inspection of buildings, and the administration and enforcement of building regulations within the portion of a county that is covered by a county building code enforcement program are the responsibility of the county.

(2) Each county, city, or town certified under 50-60-302 shall, within its jurisdictional area:

(a) examine, approve, or disapprove plans and specifications for the construction of any building, the construction of which is pursuant or purports to be pursuant to the applicable provisions of the state building code or county, city, or town building code, and direct the inspection of the buildings during and in the course of construction;

(b) require that construction of buildings be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the state building code or county, city, or town building code, subject to the powers of variance or modification granted to the department;

(c) make available to building contractors at a price that is commensurate with reproduction costs a checklist devised by the department pursuant to 50-60-118 for single-family dwellings and provide to contractors who attach a completed checklist to the plans submitted for examination the relevant building permit or notice of plan disapproval within 10 working days of the contractor's submission;

(d) during and in the course of construction, order in writing the remedying of any condition found to exist in, on, or about any building that is being constructed in violation of the state building code or county, city, or town building code. Orders may be served upon the owner or the owner's authorized agent personally or by sending by certified mail a copy of the order to the owner or the owner's authorized agent at the address set forth in the application for permission for the construction of the building. A county, city, or town certified pursuant to 50-60-302, by action of its building official, may grant in writing time as may be reasonably necessary for achieving compliance with the order. For the purposes of subsection (2)(a) and this subsection (2)(d), the phrase "during and in the course of construction" refers to the construction of a building until all necessary building permits have been obtained and all work authorized by those permits has been fully approved by the building official having jurisdiction.

(e) issue certificates of occupancy as provided in 50-60-107;

(f) issue permits, licenses, and other required documents in connection with the construction of a building;

(g) ensure that all construction-related fees or charges imposed and collected by the county, city, or town are necessary, reasonable, and uniform and are:

(i) except as provided in subsection (2)(g)(iii), used only for activities in support of reviewing and issuing a building permit and for building code enforcement, which consists of those necessary and reasonable costs directly and specifically identifiable for the enforcement of building codes, plus indirect costs charged on the same basis as other local government proprietary funds not paying administrative charges as direct charges. If indirect costs are waived for any local government proprietary fund, they must also be waived for the program established in this section. Indirect charges are limited to the charges that are allowed under federal cost accounting principles that are applicable to a local government.

(ii) reduced if the amount of the fees or charges accumulates above the amount needed to enforce building codes for 36 months. The excess must be placed in a reserve account and may be used only for building code enforcement. Collection and expenditure of fees and charges must be fully documented.

(iii) allocated and remitted to the department, in an amount not to exceed 0.5% of the building fees or charges collected, for the building codes education program established in 50-60-116.

(3) Each county, city, or town with a building code enforcement program that has been certified under 50-60-302 may, within the area of its jurisdiction:

(a) make, amend, and repeal rules for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this section and for the collection of fees and charges related to construction; and

(b) prohibit the commencement of construction until a permit has been issued by the building code enforcement authority having jurisdiction after a showing of compliance with the requirements of the applicable provisions of the state building code or county, city, or town building code or other county, city, or town ordinance or resolution that pertains to the proposed construction. A county, city, or town subject to this subsection (3) may, as part of its building code or by town ordinance or resolution, adopt voluntary energy conservation standards for new construction for the purpose of providing incentives to encourage voluntary energy conservation. The incentive-based energy conservation standards adopted may exceed any applicable energy conservation standards contained in the state building code. New construction is not required to meet local standards that exceed state energy conservation standards unless the building contractor elects to receive a local incentive.

(4) Each county, city, or town with a building code enforcement program that has been certified under 50-60-302 may perform inspections of buildings that are outside its jurisdictional limits, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The inspections are requested in writing by the owners or builders of the buildings to be inspected.

(b) The inspections are not done in lieu of inspections by another county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the buildings to be inspected.

(c) (i) The county, city, or town powers of enforcement possessed as a result of building code enforcement certification by the department may not be exercised in conjunction with the requested inspections.

(ii) Similar powers of building code enforcement may not be contractually created or required by the requester and the inspecting jurisdiction.

(5) In situations in which buildings may be annexed into an inspecting city's or town's jurisdiction subsequent to a requested inspection, the city or town may not require owners or builders to have duplicative inspections of those buildings prior to annexation as a condition precedent to receiving any public services or utilities.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2117(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 473, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

General powers of local government, Art. XI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Enforcement of building construction standards for modular homes, 50-60-404.

50-60-107. Certificate of occupancy. (1) A certificate of occupancy for a building constructed in accordance with the provisions of the state building code or county, city, or town building code must certify that the building conforms to the requirements of the building regulations applicable to it.

(2) Every certificate of occupancy, unless and until set aside or vacated by a court of competent jurisdiction, is binding and conclusive upon all county, city, or town agencies as to all matters set forth, and an order, directive, or requirement at variance with the certificate of occupancy may not be made or issued by any other state agency or county, city, or town agency.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2117(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-108. Construction permit required. Any person who desires to construct a building which is subject to the provisions of parts 1 through 4 must apply for a permit from the appropriate authorities.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2113.

50-60-109. Injunctions authorized. (1) The construction or use of the building in violation of any provision of the state building, plumbing, elevator, or electrical code or county, city, or town building code or of any lawful order of a state building official or a local building department may be enjoined by a judge of the district court in the judicial district in which the building is located.

(2) This section is governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2118; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 68, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Injunctions — procedure, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-60-110. Violation a misdemeanor. Any person served with an order pursuant to the provisions of parts 1 through 7 who fails to comply with the order not later than 30 days after service or within the time fixed by the department or a local building department for compliance, whichever is the greater, or any owner, builder, architect, tenant, contractor, subcontractor, construction superintendent, their agents, or any person taking part or assisting in the construction or use of any building who knowingly violates any of the applicable provisions of the state building, plumbing, elevator, or electrical code or county, city, or town building code is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2119; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 68, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

50-60-111 through 50-60-114 reserved.

50-60-115. Building codes council — purpose and structure. (1) There is a building codes council for the purpose of assisting the department with the application, implementation, and interpretation of the state building code and building codes adopted by counties, cities, or towns. The council shall work cooperatively with the department and with representatives of the construction industry, as well as members of the interested public, to harmonize building codes and related rules with both the needs of the construction industry and the public interest in efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety.

(2) The council consists of 12 members appointed by the governor, unless otherwise specified, as follows:

(a) a practicing architect licensed in Montana;
(b) a practicing professional engineer licensed in Montana;
(c) a representative from the building contractor industry;
(d) a county, city, or town building inspector;
(e) a representative of the manufactured housing industry;
(f) a member of the general public who does not hold public office and who does not represent the same industry or agency as another council member;
(g) the director of the department of public health and human services or the director's designee;
(h) a licensed electrician selected by the state electrical board;
(i) a licensed plumber selected by the board of plumbers;
(j) a licensed elevator mechanic selected by the department;
(k) the state fire marshal or the fire marshal's designee; and
(l) a representative of the home building industry.

(3) The appointed council members serve at the pleasure of the governor for terms of 3 years.

(4) The council is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(5) The council and its members are entitled to compensation as provided in 2-15-122.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 303, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

50-60-116. Continuing education — funding support from building fees — special account. (1) There is a building codes education program administered by the department for the purpose of providing continuing education in building code standards and other related topics to interested persons in the construction industry and in regulatory agencies of state and local government.

(2) The building codes education program must be funded entirely from building fee revenue collected by the department, and the department shall allocate 0.5% of the fees that the department collects pursuant to 50-60-104 to the state special revenue account established in subsection (3) to pay the costs of conducting courses and seminars at multiple locations in the state.

(3) There is an account in the state special revenue fund for the purpose of paying the costs of the building codes education program.

(4) The department may expend the funds referred to in subsection (2) to contract with the cooperative extension service, the extended studies programs, other appropriate units of the Montana university system, or private sector entities to develop and conduct the building codes education program.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 1999.

Cross-References

State special revenue fund, 17-2-102.

50-60-117. Building code interpretations — central registry. (1) The department shall, in cooperation with the Montana chapter of the international conference of building officials, develop a process and procedure for:

(a) achieving, to the greatest extent possible, knowledge and acceptance of the department's interpretations by affected parties;

(b) publishing the department's interpretations of building code provisions in a manner that makes the interpretations easily accessible to and obtainable by the public by paper copy and by electronic means; and

(c) maintaining in a central registry easily accessed records of the published interpretations provided for in subsection (1)(b).

(2) The department shall provide to the building codes council, established in 50-60-115, a comprehensive and up-to-date file of the department's interpretations of all building codes in use in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 1999.

50-60-118. Examination of single-family dwelling plans — statewide approval for model plans — fee adjustments — mandatory checklist. (1) The department shall accept for examination and approval or disapproval all model construction plans for single-family dwellings submitted to the department.

(2) Once a model construction plan has been approved, the department shall indicate in writing on the approved plan that the plan is acceptable on a statewide basis and that no further examination is warranted except with respect to:

(a) zoning;
(b) footings, foundations, and basements;
(c) curbs;
(d) gutters;
(e) landscaping;
(f) utility connections;
(g) street requirements;
(h) sidewalks; and
(i) other requirements specifically related to the exterior of the building.

(3) Local building departments shall reduce plan examination fees commensurate with the reduced time and effort expended resulting from the department's examination provided for in subsection (1).

(4) This section may not be construed to reduce the requirements for obtaining permits for onsite inspection of the residence under construction pursuant to 50-60-106.

(5) (a) The department shall devise a checklist for the examination of single-family dwelling construction plans by the department and by the building code enforcement officials of counties, cities, and towns.

(b) The checklist must be based upon the most recently adopted edition of the council of American building officials One and Two Family Dwelling Code, as amended.

(c) The checklist is subject to review and amendment by the building codes council provided for in 50-60-115.

(d) The checklist must be made available to building contractors at a price that is commensurate with reproduction costs, and a building contractor who uses the checklist and attaches it to the plans that the contractor submits to the department or a county, city, or town for examination is entitled to receive the relevant building permit or notice of disapproval within 10 days of submission of the completed checklist.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

Part 2
State Building Code

Part Cross-References

Municipal adoption of building, electrical, and plumbing codes, 7-15-4121.

Municipal adoption of fire code, 7-33-4208.

Seal of professional engineer, professional land surveyor, or architect required, 18-2-122.

Department of Labor and Industry approval of school building plans required prior to construction or alteration, 20-6-622.

Municipal building regulations — municipal zoning commission, Title 76, ch. 2, part 3.

50-60-201. Purpose of state building code. The state building code must be designed to effectuate the general purposes of parts 1 through 4 and the following specific objectives and standards to:

(1) provide reasonably uniform standards and requirements for construction and construction materials consistent with accepted standards of design, engineering, and fire prevention practices;

(2) permit to the fullest extent feasible the use of modern technical methods, devices, and improvements that tend to reduce the cost of construction consistent with reasonable requirements for the health and safety of the occupants or users of buildings and, consistent with the conservation of energy, by design requirements and criteria that will result in the efficient use of energy, whether used directly or in a refined form, in buildings;

(3) eliminate restrictive, obsolete, conflicting, and unnecessary building regulations and requirements that tend to unnecessarily increase construction costs, unnecessarily prevent the use of proven new materials that have been found adequate through experience or testing, or provide unwarranted preferential treatment to types or classes of materials, products, or methods of construction;

(4) ensure that any newly constructed public buildings and certain altered public buildings are readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, according to the principles applicable to accessibility to public buildings for persons with disabilities in the state building code;

(5) ensure statewide uniformity in the inspection and enforcement of exterior features of all newly constructed public buildings and certain altered public buildings, including building sites, for physical accessibility to people with disabilities;

(6) encourage efficiencies of design and insulation that enable buildings to be heated in the winter with the least possible quantities of energy and to be kept cool in the summer without air-conditioning equipment or with the least possible use of the equipment;

(7) encourage efficiencies and criteria directed toward design of building envelopes with high thermal resistance and low air leakage and toward requiring practices in the design and selection of mechanical, electrical, and illumination systems that promote the efficient use of energy;

(8) provide, to the greatest extent possible, with the advice and consent of the building codes council and the Montana chapter of the international conference of building officials, a broadly uniform system of building code interpretations for the purposes of predictability, fairness, and efficiency.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2110; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 473, L. 1999.

50-60-202. Department to be sole state agency to promulgate building regulations — exception. The department is the only state agency that may promulgate building regulations as defined in 50-60-101, except the department of justice may promulgate regulations relating to use of buildings and installation of equipment. The state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice shall review building plans and regulations for conformity with rules promulgated by the department.

History: En. 69-2125 by Sec. 13, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2125; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-60-203. Department to adopt state building code by rule. (1) (a) The department shall adopt rules relating to the construction of, the installation of equipment in, and standards for materials to be used in all buildings or classes of buildings, including provisions dealing with safety, accessibility to persons with disabilities, sanitation, and conservation of energy. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is of significant public interest for purposes of 2-3-103.

(b) Rules concerning the conservation of energy must conform to the policy established in 50-60-801 and to relevant policies developed under the provisions of Title 90, chapter 4, part 10.

(2) The department may adopt by reference nationally recognized building codes in whole or in part, except as provided in subsections (5) and (6), and may adopt rules more stringent than those contained in national codes.

(3) The rules, when adopted as provided in parts 1 through 4, constitute the "state building code" and are acceptable for the buildings to which they are applicable.

(4) The department shall adopt rules that permit the installation of below-grade liquefied petroleum gas-burning appliances.

(5) The department may not include in the state building code:

(a) a requirement for the installation of a fire sprinkler system in a single-family dwelling or a residential building that contains no more than two dwelling units; or

(b) a requirement that buildings be constructed to have solar panels or wiring, batteries, or other equipment for solar panels or electric vehicles.

(6) The department may not include in the state building code a prohibition of or limitation on the use of electric, natural gas, propane, or other energy source.

(7) (a) The department shall, by rule, adopt by reference the most recently published edition of the national fire protection association's publication NFPA 99C for the installation of medical gas piping systems. The department may, by rule, issue plumbing permits for medical gas piping systems and require inspections of medical gas piping systems.

(b) A state, county, city, or town building code compliance officer shall, as part of any inspection, request proof of a medical gas piping installation endorsement from any person who is required to hold an endorsement or who, in the inspector's judgment, appears to be involved with onsite medical gas piping activity. The inspector shall report any instance of endorsement violation to the inspector's employing agency, and the employing agency shall report the violation to the board of plumbers.

(8) The department may not prohibit or limit in the state building code the use of refrigerants listed as acceptable for use by the United States environmental protection agency pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7671k as safe alternatives to class I and class II ozone-depleting substances. Any equipment containing the alternative refrigerant must be installed in accordance with applicable safety standards and use conditions as determined by the environmental protection agency.

(9) (a) The department shall permit a place of religious worship to use its building space to accommodate temporary overnight visitors for the purpose of religious retreats, ministry programs, overnight events, and emergency or catastrophic occurrences or to provide shelter or to accommodate displaced persons due to hardship or inclement weather, provided that:

(i) a place of religious worship may not accommodate overnight visitors in the aggregate for more than 75 days in a calendar year unless the governor has declared a state of emergency pursuant to 10-3-303 or exigent circumstances exist;

(ii) a place of religious worship acting in accordance with this subsection (9) may not charge for the temporary accommodation of overnight visitors; and

(iii) a place of religious worship that temporarily accommodates overnight visitors as provided in this subsection (9) has one of the following:

(A) an automatic fire sprinkler system in the area used for temporary overnight accommodations that is monitored by a third party; or

(B) a hard-wired, stand-alone fire and smoke alarm in the area used for temporary overnight accommodations in addition to an exit door or window opening directly to a public way, exit court, or yard area.

(b) The use of places of religious worship that offer temporary overnight accommodations as allowed in subsection (9)(a) is not a change in occupancy, purpose, or use.

(c) A place of religious worship is not in violation of the state building code for the sole reason that the place of religious worship hosts temporary overnight visitors as allowed in subsection (9)(a).

(10) As used in this section, "place of religious worship" means a building or portion of a building that is intended for the performance of religious services classified as assembly group A-3 by the International Building Code as it read on January 1, 2023.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 116, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 504, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2111(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 486, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 435, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 560, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 578, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 660, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 3, Ch. 435, L. 2023, in (2) near middle substituted "subsections (5) and (6)" for "subsection (5)"; inserted (6) concerning prohibitions on energy source; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 560, L. 2023, inserted (8) concerning use of refrigerants. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 578, L. 2023, inserted (5)(b) concerning solar panels and electric vehicles; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 660, L. 2023, inserted (9) and (10) concerning use of place of religious worship to accommodate temporary overnight visitors. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Local government with self-government powers prohibited from requiring that buildings be constructed with solar panels or wiring, batteries, or electric vehicle equipment, 7-1-111.

Energy source restrictions — prohibitions, 7-1-117.

50-60-204. Public hearing required — effective date of certain rules. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a rule, amendment, or repeal of the state building code is a matter of significant public interest for purposes of 2-3-103 and may not take effect until after a public hearing by the department.

(2) If a hearing with adequate public notice pursuant to 2-3-103 has been held by the department of justice with respect to the duties contained in chapter 3 of this title or by the board of plumbers, the department of public health and human services, or the state electrical board on a proposed rule relating to building and equipment standards in their respective fields, a public hearing by the department is not required. The proposed rule is effective upon approval of the department and filing with the secretary of state as a part of the state building code.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 116, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 504, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 187, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2111(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 546, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 319, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 488, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.

State Electrical Board, Title 37, ch. 68, part 2.

Board of Plumbers, Title 37, ch. 69, part 2.

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-60-205. When state building code applies — health care facility and public health center doors. (1) If a county, city, or town does not adopt a building code as provided in 50-60-301, the state building code applies within the county, city, or town and the state will enforce the code in these areas.

(2) Any provision of a building code requiring the installation or maintenance of self-closing or automatic closing corridor doors to patient rooms does not apply to health care facilities as defined in 50-5-101 or to a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2112(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-206. Variances to state building code. (1) The department has the power, on satisfactory proof after a public hearing, to:

(a) vary or modify, in whole or part, the application of any provision or requirement of the state building code if strict compliance would cause any undue hardship; but no variance or modification shall affect adversely provisions for health, safety, and security, and equally safe and proper alternatives may be prescribed therefor;

(b) reverse, modify, or annul, in whole or part, any ruling, direction, determination, or order of any state agency affecting or relating to the construction of any building, the construction of which is pursuant or purports to be pursuant to the provisions of the state building code;

(c) review within 30 days after disapproval any application for permission for the construction of a building pursuant to the provisions of the state building code or plans or specifications submitted in connection therewith;

(d) reverse, modify, or annul the disapproval in whole or part;

(e) within 30 days make a determination that the application or plans or specifications are in compliance with the provisions of the state building code. If this determination is made, the officer charged with the duty shall issue any permit, license, certificate, authorization, or other document required for the construction.

(2) An application for a variance, modification, reversal, annulment, or review may be made by any person aggrieved pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) An application for a variance, modification, reversal, annulment, or review shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless there is a showing by the state agency that a stay would involve imminent peril to life or property.

(4) The department, in hearings conducted under this section, shall not be bound by common-law or statutory rules of evidence.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2114.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-60-207 through 50-60-210 reserved.

50-60-211. Inspections. (1) The construction of a public building or alteration to a primary function area of a public building must be inspected for physical accessibility to persons with disabilities.

(2) The inspection must include the building site, including applicable exterior features, such as parking areas, passenger loading zones, private sidewalks, and the accessibility from adjacent public sidewalks, public streets, and public transportation stops.

(3) (a) The inspections must be completed by state building inspectors in areas not covered by a county, city, or town building code.

(b) (i) Counties, cities, and towns that have adopted a building code may assign appropriately trained personnel to perform site inspections conducted pursuant to this part.

(ii) Counties, cities, and towns conducting inspections pursuant to this section must have an enforcement mechanism in place to ensure compliance with the accessibility provisions of this part, including but not limited to denying building permits or certificates of occupancy, injunctions, or other civil enforcement procedures allowed by law.

(4) Existing public buildings that are not undergoing an alteration to a primary function area are not subject to the inspection provisions of this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Adoption of ordinances by local governmental units, Title 7, ch. 5, parts 1 and 42.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-60-212. Disclaimer. A building permit or certificate of occupancy issued by the state or by a county, city, or town must contain a statement that reads: "Compliance with the requirements of the state building code for physical accessibility to persons with disabilities does not necessarily guarantee compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, Title 49, chapter 2, commonly known as the Montana Human Rights Act, or other similar federal, state, or local laws that mandate accessibility to commercial construction or multifamily housing."

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-213. Accessible exterior routes — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (6), for a public building, an accessible exterior route must be provided from public transportation stops located within the boundary of the building site, from accessible parking and accessible passenger loading zones within the boundaries of the building site, and from public sidewalks that are immediately adjacent to the building site, if sidewalks exist, to the building's accessible entrance served by the transportation stops, parking and loading zones, or sidewalks.

(2) (a) When more than one public building is located on a site, at least one accessible exterior route must connect accessible elements, facilities, and buildings that are on the site.

(b) For the purposes of 50-60-214 and this section, "element" means an architectural or mechanical component of a public building, facility, space, or site and includes but is not limited to telephones, curb ramps, doors, drinking fountains, seating, and water closets.

(3) An accessible exterior route between accessible public parking and an accessible building entrance must be the most practical direct route.

(4) (a) A person or entity constructing a public building is not required to fully comply with the provisions of this section if the person can demonstrate that due to characteristics of the terrain, it is structurally impractical to fully comply.

(b) Full compliance may be considered structurally impractical only in those rare circumstances when the unique characteristics of the terrain prevent the incorporation of accessibility features.

(c) The person or entity shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent that compliance is not structurally impractical.

(d) The department shall adopt rules to assist all interested parties involved in the design, construction, and inspection processes in determining structural impracticality.

(5) (a) If a paved parking lot is not planned or present for a public building, a person or entity constructing the public building is not required to pave the entire lot, unless otherwise required by law, ordinance, or applicable building code, but shall provide pavement or a similarly firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface for parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities.

(b) An accessible exterior route with a suitably firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface must be provided from the designated parking spaces to an accessible building or facility entrance.

(c) The total number of designated accessible parking spaces in a parking lot or area must be the number provided for in the applicable state building code or county, city, or town building code.

(6) An accessible route is not required in cases where there is not a pedestrian route for the general public.

(7) The state, counties, cities, and towns shall use the same accessibility standards.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-214. Alteration of primary function area. (1) An alteration that affects or could affect the use of or access to a primary function area in a public building must be made to ensure, to the extent possible, that the path of travel to the altered primary function area and the restrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered primary function area are readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities.

(2) (a) A person or entity is not required to make alterations to provide an accessible path of travel to an altered primary function area if in terms of cost and scope the alterations to the path of travel are disproportionate to the cost of the alterations to the primary function area. Alterations to a path of travel to an altered primary function area must be considered disproportionate if the cost exceeds 20% of the cost of the alterations to the primary function area. This subsection does not prohibit an expenditure to alter a path of travel that exceeds 20% of the cost of the alterations to a primary function area.

(b) If the cost of altering a path of travel to an altered primary function area is disproportionate as provided in subsection (2)(a), the path of travel must be made accessible to the extent possible without incurring disproportionate costs. The alterations to the path of travel must be made by providing, in the following order or priority:

(i) an accessible entrance and accessible exterior route to the accessible entrance from accessible parking and passenger loading zones or from a public sidewalk if the public sidewalk is immediately adjacent to the public building site;

(ii) an accessible path of travel to the altered primary function area;

(iii) accessible restrooms for each sex, as defined in 1-1-201, or a single unisex restroom when allowed by the applicable building code; and

(iv) accessible elements, including but not limited to storage spaces and alarms.

(3) A person or entity subject to the provisions of this section is also subject to the provisions of 50-60-213(5)(a) and (5)(b).

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 331, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 685, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 34, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Part 3
County, City, and Town Building Codes

Part Cross-References

Municipal adoption of building, electrical, and plumbing codes, 7-15-4121.
Municipal powers relating to fire escapes and safety exits, 7-15-4124.
Municipal adoption of fire code, 7-33-4208.
Seal of professional engineer, professional land surveyor, or architect required, 18-2-122.
Municipal building regulations — municipal zoning commission, Title 76, ch. 2, part 3.

50-60-301. County, city, and town building codes authorized — health care facility and public health center doors — fee adjustment for model plans. (1) The local legislative body of a county, city, or town may adopt a building code to apply to the county, city, or town by an ordinance or resolution, as appropriate:

(a) adopting a building code; or

(b) authorizing the adoption of a building code by administrative action.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a county, city, or town may not adopt or enforce a building code that is more stringent than the building code adopted by the department or as required by state law.

(b) A county, city, or town may, as part of its building code or by town ordinance or resolution, adopt voluntary energy conservation standards for new construction for the purpose of providing incentives to encourage voluntary energy conservation. The incentive-based energy conservation standards adopted may exceed any applicable energy conservation standards contained in the state building code. New construction is not required to meet local standards that exceed state energy conservation standards unless the building contractor elects to receive a local incentive.

(3) Any provision of a building code requiring the installation or maintenance of self-closing or automatic closing corridor doors to patient rooms does not apply to health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, or to a public health center, as defined in 7-34-2102.

(4) (a) When the same single-family dwelling plan is constructed at more than one site, the county, city, or town shall, after the first examination of the plan, adjust the required plan fee to reflect only the cost of reviewing requirements pertaining to the review of:

(i) zoning;
(ii) footings, foundations, and basements;
(iii) curbs;
(iv) gutters;
(v) landscaping;
(vi) utility connections;
(vii) street requirements;
(viii) sidewalks; and
(ix) other requirements related specifically to the exterior of the building.

(b) If a building contractor alters the single-family dwelling plan referred to in subsection (4)(a) in a fashion that substantially affects the building code requirements, the county, city, or town may impose the full examination fee permitted under 50-60-106.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2112(1); (3) En. Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 473, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 300, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

General powers of local government, Art. XI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Applicability of state building code, 50-60-205.

50-60-302. Certification of county, city, or town building codes. (1) A county, city, or town may not enforce a building code unless:

(a) the code enforcement program has been certified by the department as in compliance with applicable statutes and department certification rules;

(b) the current adopted code, a current list of fees to be imposed, and a current plan for enforcement of the code have been filed with and approved by the department; and

(c) all inspectors inspecting or approving any installations, which if accomplished commercially require state licensure, must themselves be properly and currently state-licensed as journeymen in that craft or occupation or be certified by a nationally recognized entity for testing and certification of inspectors that is approved by the department before being permitted to inspect or approve any installations.

(2) (a) Subject to subsection (2)(b), the department shall adopt additional rules and standards governing the certification of county, city, and town building code enforcement programs that must include provisions for prompt revocation of certification for refusal or failure to comply with any applicable statute or rule. The department may allow a county, city, or town a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 6 months, to correct identified code enforcement program deficiencies, unless the deficiencies constitute an immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, in which case the department may require immediate correction. Failure to correct deficiencies within the time set by the department constitutes a basis for immediate decertification of the code enforcement program. Continued operation of a county, city, or town code enforcement program in violation of a department order to correct deficiencies may be enjoined or subject to a writ of mandamus by a judge of the district court in the jurisdiction in which the county, city, or town is located.

(b) The rules and standards must include provisions for the department to ensure that all code enforcement program functions are being properly performed. The rules may not require a financial audit or a review of fees of a county, city, or town code enforcement program that is in addition to or separate from an audit conducted under 2-7-503.

(3) If the certification of any local government code enforcement program is revoked for any violation or deficiency, the state resumes its original jurisdiction for state building code enforcement within the county, city, or town area and the local government retains the responsibility for completion of inspections and issuance of certificates of occupancy on any incomplete construction projects previously permitted by the county, city, or town, unless the reason for the decertification is directly related to the protection of health, safety, and welfare of the public.

(4) If a county, city, or town voluntarily decertifies its code enforcement program, the department must be given written notification of the intended decertification at least 90 days prior to the date of decertification. The county, city, or town retains the responsibility for completion of inspections and issuance of certificates of occupancy on any incomplete construction projects permitted by the county, city, or town prior to decertifying its code enforcement program.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2112(3), (4); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 278, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 443, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 269, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 269, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-60-303. County, city, or town appeal procedure. (1) If a county, city, or town adopts a building code, it shall also establish an appeal procedure by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, that is acceptable to the department.

(2) If a county, city, or town does not adopt a code, appeals on the application of the state building code within the county, city, or town must be made to the department.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2116; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Contested cases — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-60-304. Area of applicability of county, city, or town building code — enforcement. (1) A city or town that adopts a building code under this chapter may enforce its building code only within the incorporated limits of the city or town.

(2) A county may adopt a building code under this chapter on a countywide basis unless a city or town within the county has adopted a building code. If a city or town within the county has adopted a building code, then the county may not enforce the county building code in that city or town.

(3) A county, city, or town may contract for the enforcement of its building code.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 443, L. 2003.**

50-60-305 through 50-60-309 reserved.

50-60-310. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 221(1), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

50-60-311. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 221(1), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

50-60-312. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 2001.**

50-60-313. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 221(1), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

50-60-314. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 546, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 221(1), Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

Part 4
Factory-Built Buildings and Recreational Vehicles

50-60-401. Department to adopt rules for factory-built buildings. The department may adopt by reference nationally recognized construction standards, in whole or in part, for the construction of factory-built buildings, but this does not prevent the department from adopting rules more stringent than those contained in the national standards.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 226, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2122; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 33, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 240, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption of rule by reference, 2-4-307.

50-60-402. Factory-built buildings and recreational vehicles to comply with standards. (1) A person, firm, or corporation may not manufacture, sell, or offer for sale any new factory-built building unless the factory-built building and its components, systems, and appliances have been constructed and assembled in accordance with the standards defined in this part.

(2) A factory-built building that has been approved by the department is considered to be in full compliance with the standards and rules prescribed in parts 1 through 4.

(3) All factory-built buildings approved by the department are acceptable as meeting the requirements of parts 1 through 4 throughout the state of Montana without further inspection or fees except for zoning, utility connections, and foundation permits required by local ordinance.

(4) A person, firm, or corporation may not manufacture, sell, or offer for sale a new recreational vehicle unless the vehicle has been constructed and assembled in accordance with the American national standards institute ANSI/A119.2 standard for recreational vehicles. The department is not responsible for enforcing the compliance of recreational vehicles with the ANSI/A119.2 standard as part of the state building code.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 459, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2123; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 33, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 240, L. 1997.**

50-60-403. Use of independent testing laboratories authorized. The department may use independent testing laboratories or the agencies of other states to determine if approved models of factory-built buildings are being constructed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications for those models.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2124(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 240, L. 1997.**

50-60-404. Enforcement of building construction standards for modular homes. (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to factory-built modular or prebuilt homes or buildings.

(2) A county, city, or town may regulate the construction of factory-built modular or prebuilt homes or buildings as provided in 50-60-106 if:

(a) the homes or buildings are constructed inside the jurisdiction of the county, city, or town;

(b) the homes or buildings are sold primarily to persons in the county in which the factory is located;

(c) the factory does not manufacture more than 100 homes or buildings a year; and

(d) the county, city, or town has an agency or officer assigned to inspect and enforce building construction standards.

(3) Inspection and enforcement approval given by a county, city, or town under this section may be recognized and accepted by any other county, city, or town of the state to which the factory-built home or building is transported for final installation. Additional inspections need not be conducted.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 443, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

General powers of local government, Art. XI, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Part 5
Plumbing Installations

Part Cross-References

Plumber licensing, Title 37, ch. 69, part 3.

50-60-501. Declaration of public interest. It is hereby declared that the public health and welfare require that minimum standards for the planning, installing, altering, extending, repairing, and maintaining of plumbing systems be established for the protection of the people of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2412.**

50-60-502. No penalties for hiring unlicensed plumbers. This part may not be construed as imposing any penalty on a person for hiring or contracting with an unlicensed person to do work in the field of plumbing. However, a person who engages in the field of plumbing at a time when the person is not duly licensed is subject to the penalties imposed by this part and Title 37, chapter 69.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 251, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 497, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2415; amd. Sec. 1861, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-60-503. Exceptions. This part shall not be construed to apply to or to affect plumbing installations in any mines, mills, smelters, refineries, public utilities, railroads, or plumbing installations on farms having their own individual water supply or sewage disposal system.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 251, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 497, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2426.**

50-60-504. Department to prescribe minimum standards. The department of labor and industry shall by rule prescribe minimum standards that are uniform for all plumbing installations or maintenance, except those that are exempt under 50-60-503.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 251, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 236, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 497, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2416; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 168, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Department of Labor and Industry, Title 2, ch. 15, part 17.

50-60-505. Permit required. (1) It is unlawful for any person to engage in the business, trade, or work of installing, removing, altering, or repairing plumbing and drainage systems or parts of plumbing and drainage systems without first obtaining a permit from the department of labor and industry.

(2) A separate permit must be obtained for each building or structure.

(3) A person may not allow any other person to do or cause to be done any work under a permit secured by the permittee except persons in the permittee's employ.

(4) When a permit has been obtained to connect an existing building or existing work to the public sewer or to connect to a new private disposal facility, backfilling of private sewage disposal facilities abandoned consequent to the connection is included in the permit.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-60-506. Exceptions to permit requirement. (1) A permit is not required for any minor replacement or repair work, the performance of which does not have a significant potential for creating a condition hazardous to public health and safety.

(2) A permit is not required where the installation is exempt under the provisions of 37-69-102 or 50-60-503.

(3) A state permit is not required whenever the installation occurs in an area governed by a county, city, or town and where there is in effect a county, city, or town building code that covers plumbing installations and that provides inspection procedures.

(4) This part does not prohibit the owner of residential property from making an installation for all sanitary plumbing and potable water supply piping without a permit if the owner personally does the work.

(5) The provisions of this part do not apply to regularly employed maintenance personnel doing maintenance work on the business premises of their employer unless the work is subject to the permit provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(2); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

50-60-507. Application for and issuance of permit. (1) A person required to apply for a permit shall apply on a form provided by the department of labor and industry or its authorized representative. The applicant shall give a description of the character of the work proposed to be done and the location, ownership, occupancy, and use of the premises in connection with the work.

(2) The department or its authorized representative may require sketches, specifications, or drawings and other information it considers necessary in order to determine the scope of the work contemplated.

(3) If the department determines that the sketches, specifications, drawings, descriptions, and information furnished by the applicant are in compliance with the state plumbing code, it shall issue the permit applied for upon payment of the required fee as established by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(3); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 170, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-60-508. Permit fees. (1) The department of labor and industry shall establish permit fees in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, and the fees must be deposited to the state special revenue fund of the department for use in the administration and enforcement of this part and the Montana state plumbing code and for other purposes as established by law.

(2) For the purpose of 50-60-505 through 50-60-513, a sanitary plumbing outlet on or to which a plumbing fixture or appliance may be set or attached must be construed to be a fixture. Fees for reconnection and retest of plumbing systems in relocated buildings must be based on the number of plumbing fixtures, gas systems, water heaters, and the like involved. The fees established pursuant to this section must be commensurate with the costs of the administration and enforcement of this part and with appropriations for other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 11, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 357, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

State fund structure, 17-2-102.

50-60-509. Person commencing work without a permit to pay double the permit fee — exception. A person who commences any work for which a permit is required without first obtaining a permit shall, if subsequently allowed to obtain a permit, pay double the permit fee for the work, except that this provision does not apply to emergency work when it is proved to the satisfaction of the department of labor and industry or its authorized representative that the work was urgently necessary and that it was not practical to obtain a permit before the commencement of the work. In all emergency cases, a permit must be obtained as soon as it is practical to do so, and if there is unreasonable delay in applying for the permit, a double fee must be charged.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 172, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-60-510. Inspections to ensure compliance. All plumbing and drainage systems may be inspected by the department of labor and industry or an authorized representative or by a county, city, or town certified to perform an inspection pursuant to 50-60-302 in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the state plumbing code. As part of any inspection, the inspector shall request proof of licensure from any person who is required to be licensed who is involved with or, in the inspector's judgment, appears to be involved with plumbing activities if the person is on the site. The inspector shall report any instance of license violation to the inspector's employing agency, and the employing agency shall in turn report the violation to the board of plumbers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(5); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 443, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-60-511. Duty of permittee regarding inspection and compliance. (1) It is the duty of the person doing work authorized by the permit to notify the department of labor and industry, orally or in writing, that the work is ready for inspection. The notification must be given not less than 24 hours before the work is to be inspected.

(2) It is the duty of the person doing the work authorized by the permit to ensure that the work performed before notification and after notification pending inspection complies with the state plumbing code.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(6); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-60-512. Department authorized to order work stopped for noncompliance. Whenever any work is being done contrary to the provisions of the state plumbing code, the department of labor and industry or its authorized representative may, after a hearing conducted under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, order work stopped by notice in writing served on any person engaged in the work.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(7); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-60-513. Suspension or revocation of permit. The department of labor and industry may suspend or revoke a permit whenever it is issued in error or on the basis of incorrect information supplied or whenever work performed under the permit is in violation of any of the provisions of Title 37, chapter 69 or this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2427(8); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-60-514. District court — jurisdiction — restraining orders. The district court of any county has jurisdiction in equity, on application of the department of labor and industry, to restrain from connection any new plumbing installations on finding, after a hearing, that the plumbing is inferior to the standards of the state plumbing code.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 251, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 237, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2417; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-60-515. Penalty for violations — exceptions. A person who works in the field of plumbing or maintains or conducts a plumbing business or an individual who connects or disconnects plumbing from a public water or sewer system in violation of any provisions of this part or at a time when the person is not exempt from the provisions of this part pursuant to the provisions of a duly enacted and subsisting ordinance of a city or town is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 and not more than $100 for each separate offense. However, this part may not be construed to apply to or affect plumbing or pipefitting as indicated in the exceptions under 37-69-102 and 50-60-503.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 203, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 185, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 497, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 101, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2411; amd. Sec. 1862, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 6
Electrical Installations

Part Cross-References

Licensing of electricians, Title 37, ch. 68, part 3.
Electrical easements, 70-17-101, 70-17-102.

50-60-601. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to protect the health and safety of the people of this state from the danger of electrically caused shocks, fires, and explosions; to protect property from the hazard of electrically caused fires and explosions; to establish a procedure for determining where and by whom electrical installations are to be made; and to insure that the electrical installations and electrical products made and sold in this state meet minimum safety standards.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 269, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2802(part).

50-60-602. Exceptions. (1) This part does not apply to:

(a) the installation, alteration, or repair of electrical signal or communications equipment and traffic signals, street lighting, and other electrical traffic control devices owned or operated by a public utility, city, or county or the state;

(b) electrical installations on the premises of petroleum refineries, except a structure classified under chapter 7, section 701, group B, division 2, and chapter 9, section 901, group H, outside of process units, of the 1991 edition of the Uniform Building Code;

(c) mines and buildings on mine property regulated under Title 82, chapter 4, and subject to inspection under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act; or

(d) the installation, alteration, or repair of low-voltage electrical signal and communications equipment and optical fiber cable.

(2) The inspection provisions of this part do not apply to regularly employed maintenance electricians doing maintenance work on the business premises of their employer nor do they apply to line work on the business premises of the employer or to ordinary and customary in-plant or onsite installations, modifications, additions, or repairs.

(3) A person who plugs in an electrical appliance where an approved electrical outlet is already installed may not be considered as an installer.

(4) This part does not in any manner interfere with, hamper, preclude, or prohibit any vendor of any electrical appliance from selling, delivering, and connecting any electrical appliance if the connection does not necessitate the installation of electrical wiring of the structure where the appliance is to be connected.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2812(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 444, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, L. 2001.

50-60-603. Electrical codes to be adopted by department by rule. (1) The department of labor and industry shall adopt rules relating to the installation of wires and equipment to convey electrical current and installations of apparatus to be operated by current, except as provided in 50-60-602.

(2) The department may adopt by reference the national fire protection association standard NFPA 70, national electrical code, in whole or in part, and may adopt rules more stringent than those in the national fire protection association standard NFPA 70, national electrical code.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 366, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 269, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2802(part); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 47, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 178, 221, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-60-604. Inspections — electrical permits — fees. The department of labor and industry or an authorized representative or a county, city, or town certified to perform an inspection pursuant to 50-60-302 shall inspect electrical installations, issue electrical permits for these installations, and establish and charge a reasonable and uniform fee for the inspections. The fee must be commensurate with the expense of providing the inspection and with appropriations for other purposes. As part of any inspection, the inspector shall require proof of licensure from any person who is required to be licensed who is involved with or, in the inspector's judgment, appears to be involved with electrical installations if the person is on the site. The inspector shall report any instance of license violation to the inspector's employing agency, and the employing agency shall in turn report the violation to the board of electricians.

History: **En. 66-2805.1 by Sec. 273, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2805.1(1); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 357, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 443, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-60-605. Power supplier not to energize installation without electrical permit. Individuals, firms, cooperatives, corporations, or municipalities selling electricity are power suppliers. Except for temporary connections that the department of labor and industry may authorize by rule for a period not exceeding 14 days without a preconnection inspection, power suppliers may not connect with or energize an electrical installation under this part unless the owner or a licensed electrical contractor has delivered to the power supplier an electrical permit covering the installation, issued by the department of labor and industry or a county, city, or town certified to enforce the electrical code pursuant to 50-60-302.

History: **En. 66-2805.1 by Sec. 273, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2805.1(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 47, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 180, 221, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 443, L. 2003.**

50-60-606. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 47, L. 2001.

History: **En. 66-2805.1 by Sec. 273, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2805.1(3); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 352, L. 1985.**

50-60-607. Energizing electrical installation without permit — misdemeanor. Any person, partnership, company, firm, association, or corporation, other than a power supplier, that energizes an electrical installation under this part for which an electrical permit has not been issued by the department of labor and industry or a county, city, or town certified to enforce the electrical code pursuant to 50-60-302 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: **En. 66-2805.1 by Sec. 273, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 504, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 66-2805.1(4); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 352, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 47, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 443, L. 2003.**

50-60-608. Injunction authorized. The use or installation of wires or equipment conveying electrical current or the use or installation of any apparatus operated by electrical current in violation of any provision of this part or a lawful order of a state or local government building official may be enjoined by a judge in the district court of the judicial district in which the wires, equipment, or apparatus is located.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 47, L. 2001.**

Part 7
Elevators and Other Conveyances

50-60-701. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 303, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2001.**

50-60-702. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 303, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 2001.**

50-60-703. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 303, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 315, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 439, L. 2001.**

50-60-704. Scope. (1) This part covers the design, construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, inspection, installation, and testing of the following equipment, associated parts, and hoistways:

(a) hoisting and lowering mechanisms equipped with a car or platform, which move between two or more landings, including but not limited to:

(i) elevators; and

(ii) platform lifts and stairway chairlifts;

(b) power-driven stairways and walkways for carrying persons between landings, including but not limited to:

(i) escalators; and

(ii) moving walks;

(c) hoisting and lowering mechanisms equipped with a car, which serves two or more landings and is restricted to the carrying of material by its limited size or limited access to the car, including but not limited to:

(i) dumbwaiters; and

(ii) material lifts and dumbwaiters with automatic transfer devices; and

(d) automatic guided transit vehicles on guideways with an exclusive right-of-way, including but not limited to automated people movers.

(2) The department shall adopt rules designating equipment that is not subject to the provisions of this part, including but not limited to certain types of:

(a) personnel hoists;

(b) material hoists;

(c) manlifts;

(d) mobile scaffolds, towers, and platforms;

(e) powered platforms and equipment for exterior and interior maintenance;

(f) conveyors and related equipment;

(g) cranes, derricks, hoists, hooks, jacks, and slings;

(h) industrial trucks;

(i) portable equipment, except for portable escalators that are covered by this part;

(j) tiering or piling machines used to move materials to and from storage that are located and operating entirely within one story;

(k) equipment for feeding or positioning materials at machine tools, printing presses, and similar locations;

(l) furnace hoists;

(m) railroad car lifts or dumpers; and

(n) moving platforms and similar equipment used by an elevator contractor for installing an elevator.

(3) This part does not apply to private residences or farm and ranch operations.
History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 303, L. 2005.**

50-60-705. Authority of department — rulemaking. (1) The department may consult with engineering authorities and organizations concerned with safety codes, rules, and regulations governing the design, construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, inspection, installation, and testing of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and other equipment subject to the provisions of this part.

(2) (a) The department shall adopt rules relating to the design, construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, inspection, installation, and testing of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and other equipment subject to the provisions of this part.

(b) The department may adopt by reference national standards for equipment subject to the provisions of this part, including national safety codes for elevators and escalators, safety standards for platform lifts and stairway chairlifts, safety codes for existing elevators and escalators, and standards for automated people movers.

(3) The department may modify or grant exceptions to any provision of this part or any rule or standard adopted pursuant to this part if to do so would not jeopardize the public safety or welfare.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 303, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

50-60-706. Registration of elevators and other conveyances. (1) Within 6 months of October 1, 2005, the owners or lessees of existing elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part shall register the equipment with the department on a form provided by the department unless the equipment was previously registered with the department.

(2) The registration form must contain the type, load and speed, name of manufacturer, location, use, and any other information the department may require for each elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part that is registered pursuant to this section.

(3) Each elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part whose construction is completed subsequent to the 6-month period referred to in subsection (1) must be registered by the owner or lessee when the construction is complete.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

50-60-707 and 50-60-708 reserved.

50-60-709. Permits. (1) (a) An elevator contractor may not erect, construct, install, or alter an elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part unless the elevator contractor has obtained a permit from the department and paid the requisite permit fees.

(b) Only a licensed elevator contractor may perform the work described in subsection (1)(a).

(2) Each permit application must be accompanied by copies of specifications and accurately scaled and fully dimensioned plans that:

(a) show the location of the installation in relation to the plans and elevation of the building;

(b) show the location of the machinery room and the equipment to be installed, relocated, or altered;

(c) show all structural supporting members, including foundations;

(d) specify all materials to be employed and all loads to be supported or conveyed; and

(e) are sufficiently complete to illustrate all details of construction and design.

(3) The department may by rule establish criteria for revoking a permit, including but not limited to materially false statements or misrepresentations made in conjunction with a permit application, an elevator contractor's failure to perform in accordance with the specifications or plans submitted with the application or with conditions of the permit, or the elevator contractor's failure to comply with a department stop-work order.

(4) A permit issued under this section expires:

(a) 6 months from the date of its issuance unless the permit specifies a shorter expiration period; or

(b) if an elevator contractor suspends or abandons work covered by a permit for 60 days unless the permit specifies a shorter expiration period for suspension or abandonment.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

50-60-710 reserved.

50-60-711. Inspections — fees — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part, including freight elevators, must be inspected by the department to ensure compliance with the requirements of the applicable building code and this part. The department shall establish and charge a reasonable fee based on the type of equipment being inspected that may not exceed the expense of providing the inspection. Inspections must be made on an annual basis, except that freight elevator inspections must be conducted every 2 years.

(2) (a) In lieu of an inspection by the department, inspections of equipment provided for in subsection (1) may be made by a licensed elevator inspector.

(b) When an inspection is made by an elevator inspector, a copy of the condition report must be provided to the owner and a copy must be sent to the department. The department may not charge more than $10 for receiving and processing a condition report for each individual piece of equipment in a building and for issuing a certificate of inspection for the piece of equipment if the licensed elevator inspector doing the inspection certifies to the department that there are not any deficient conditions or that all deficient conditions noted in the condition report have been corrected and that a followup inspection by the department is not necessary.

(3) It is the responsibility of the owner or lessee of equipment subject to the provisions of this section to ensure compliance with any inspection requirements.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

50-60-712 through 50-60-714 reserved.

50-60-715. Testing. (1) The department shall establish by rule requirements for periodic testing of elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, and other equipment subject to the provisions of this part. It is the responsibility of the owners or lessees of equipment subject to the provisions of this section to ensure compliance with any testing requirements.

(2) An owner or lessee shall obtain the services of a licensed elevator contractor for testing and all tests must be conducted by a licensed elevator mechanic.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

50-60-716. Insurance requirements. (1) Each licensed elevator contractor and licensed elevator inspector shall provide the department with a certified copy of an insurance policy issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state that provides at least $1 million coverage for injury or death for any number of persons in any single occurrence and $500,000 for property damage in any single occurrence.

(2) A licensed elevator contractor or licensed elevator inspector shall notify the department of any material policy alteration or policy cancellation within 10 days of receiving notice of the alteration or cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

50-60-717 through 50-60-719 reserved.

50-60-720. Violation — misdemeanor — injunction. (1) Any person taking part or assisting in the design, construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, inspection, installation, or testing of elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, or other equipment subject to the provisions of this part who knowingly violates any provision of this part, the applicable building code, or any lawful order of a state, county, or municipal building official is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A violation described in subsection (1) may be enjoined by a district court judge in the judicial district where the violation occurs.

(3) Subsection (2) is governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 303, L. 2005.

Part 8
Residential Energy Efficiency

50-60-801. Statement of policy on residential energy efficiency. The legislature finds that the people of Montana have an interest in energy efficiency in certain residential buildings for the purpose of protecting and improving their economic and environmental well-being and energy security, while recognizing the basic need for safe and affordable shelter. It is the policy of the state of Montana to encourage energy efficiency in residential buildings through strategies that ensure that:

(1) the housing consumer has access to the information required to make informed choices about structures and energy efficiency measures;

(2) energy efficiency measures are safe, reliable, and readily available for use in Montana;

(3) investments in energy efficiency measures are cost-effective;

(4) the cost of energy efficiency measures on the combination of down payments, monthly mortgage payments, and monthly utility bills does not adversely affect the affordability of housing to prospective home buyers and renters; and

(5) energy efficiency measures do not place an undue or inequitable burden on residential building owners or renters, the residential construction industry, financial institutions, real estate salespersons and appraisers, energy providers, or state and local governments.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1993.

50-60-802. Enforcement of energy code through builder self-certification. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person who begins construction on a residential building in Montana after October 1, 1993, shall certify in writing to the building owner at the conclusion of construction that the residential building has been constructed in compliance with the energy-efficient construction standards adopted under the provisions of 50-60-203(1).

(2) A person who begins construction on a residential building in Montana after October 1, 2009, shall certify in writing to the building owner at the conclusion of construction that the residential building has been constructed in compliance with the voluntary energy-efficient construction standards adopted by a county, city, or town with a building code enforcement program that has jurisdiction over the construction if the building meets or exceeds those standards.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 300, L. 2009.

50-60-803. Energy labeling sticker. (1) The department of labor and industry, in consultation with the department of environmental quality, shall prescribe by rule requirements for a labeling sticker to be affixed to a new residential building that describes the energy efficiency components of the home, including but not limited to heating appliance efficiencies and R-value or U-value of ceilings, walls, floors, windows, and doors in new residential buildings.

(2) A person constructing a new residential building shall affix to that residential building in a manner prescribed by the department of labor and industry a labeling sticker as described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 9
Fire Mitigation Construction Techniques

50-60-901. Purpose — rulemaking. (1) The purpose of this part is to provide specific rulemaking authority to the department of labor and industry for the purposes of 76-3-504(1)(e).

(2) By October 1, 2009, the department shall adopt rules identifying appropriate construction techniques that may be used by a local government in mitigation of identified fire hazards pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(e). Rules adopted under this section may not be construed to be part of the state building code as provided in 50-60-203. The adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule under this section is of significant public interest for the purposes of 2-3-103.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 443, L. 2007.

50-60-902. Enforcement. Rules promulgated under 50-60-901 may be enforced only as provided in Title 76, chapter 3, part 5. The powers and duties for enforcement provided in 76-3-501 apply to rules adopted under 50-60-901 and do not apply to or include any rules adopted under Title 50, chapter 60, parts 1 through 8.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 443, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 61
FIRE SAFETY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-61-101. Purpose of chapter.
50-61-102. Department of justice to administer chapter.
50-61-103. Application of chapter — definitions.
50-61-104. Repealed.
50-61-105. Repealed.
50-61-106. Unlawful to obstruct fire exit.
50-61-107. Repealed.
50-61-108. Repealed.
50-61-109. Repealed.
50-61-110. Repealed.
50-61-111. Repealed.
50-61-112. Repealed.
50-61-113. Repealed.
50-61-114. Fire chief and fire inspector to make inspections.
50-61-115. Notice of violations.
50-61-116. Lessee who corrects violations entitled to reimbursement.
50-61-117. Prosecution of violations.
50-61-118. Injunction authorized.
50-61-119. Violation of chapter a misdemeanor.
50-61-120. Exceeding fire code limits for storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers.
50-61-121. Restrictions on storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Adoption of fire codes by municipalities, 7-5-108, 7-5-4202.
Fire protection in unincorporated towns, Title 7, ch. 33, parts 21 through 23; Title 19, ch. 17, parts 1 through 4.
Municipal power to establish and maintain fire department and alarm system, 7-33-4201, 7-33-4202.
Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.
Offense of giving false alarms, 45-7-204.
Fire safety certification requirement for day-care centers, 52-2-734.

50-61-101. Purpose of chapter. The purpose and intent of this chapter are to provide for the public safety in case of fire in those occupancies specified in 50-61-103 and to allow for inspection of the buildings and premises by specified officers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 229, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1801; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 2003.

50-61-102. Department of justice to administer chapter. (1) The department of justice has general charge and supervision of the enforcement of this chapter, and the officers enumerated in 50-61-114 shall act under its general charge and supervision, shall assist the department in giving effect to this chapter, and are subject to its direction and the rules adopted under 50-3-102 and 50-3-103 for the enforcement of 50-61-120, 50-61-121, and this chapter.

(2) Upon its approval of a fire code and a plan for enforcement of the code filed by a municipality or other governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, the department may approve a municipal or governmental fire agency fire inspection program for local enforcement.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(6); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-61-103. Application of chapter — definitions. This chapter applies to the occupancies defined below:

(1) "Assembly occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure by a gathering of 50 or more persons for purposes such as civic, political, religious, or social functions, recreation, education, instruction, food or drink consumption, or awaiting transportation.

(2) "Business occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure for office, professional, or service transactions. A business occupancy includes the use of a structure for the storage of records and accounts or for an eating or drinking business establishment with an occupant load of less than 50 persons.

(3) "Educational occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure by persons assembled for the purpose of learning or receiving educational instruction. An educational occupancy includes but is not limited to any building used for:

(a) educational purposes through the 12th grade for more than 12 hours a week or 4 hours in any 1 day; or

(b) day-care purposes for more than 12 persons.

(4) "Industrial occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure for assembling, disassembling, fabricating, finishing, manufacturing, packaging, repairing, or processing operations.

(5) "Institutional occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure by more than five persons harbored or detained to receive medical, charitable, or other care or treatment or by persons involuntarily detained. An institutional occupancy includes but is not limited to:

(a) nurseries for the full-time care of children under the age of 6;

(b) hospitals, sanitariums, or nursing homes; and

(c) mental hospitals, mental sanitariums, jails, prisons, reformatories, or buildings where personal liberties of those harbored or detained are similarly restrained.

(6) "Residential occupancy" means the occupancy or use of a building or a structure or any portion of a building or a structure by persons for whom sleeping accommodations are provided and who are not harbored or detained to receive medical, charitable, or other care or treatment and who are not involuntarily detained. A residential occupancy includes but is not limited to hotels, motels, apartment houses, dwellings, and lodging houses. A residential occupancy does not include a building used only for private residential purposes for a family.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1802; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 387, L. 2003.

50-61-104. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1803.

50-61-105. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1804.

50-61-106. Unlawful to obstruct fire exit. It is unlawful to obstruct in any manner any fire exit, or any hallway, corridor, or entranceway leading to a fire exit, required by rules adopted by the department of justice.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1805(part); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

50-61-107. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1805(part).

50-61-108. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1805(part).

50-61-109. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1806(b), (c).

50-61-110. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1806(a).

50-61-111. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1807.

50-61-112. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 387, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993.

50-61-113. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 387, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

50-61-114. Fire chief and fire inspector to make inspections. For the purpose of examining the premises for violations of this chapter and rules adopted under 50-3-103 for the enforcement of this chapter, the chief or fire inspector of the governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, when a fire inspection program is established, or a fire inspector of the department of justice, when a fire inspection program does not exist:

(1) shall enter into school buildings at least once each 18 months; and

(2) may enter into all other buildings and upon all other premises within the jurisdiction, according to priority schedules established by the department for conducting inspections of buildings and premises.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 212, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 387, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Structures creating fire hazard a public nuisance, 50-62-102.

50-61-115. Notice of violations. (1) When a building is found that is not in compliance with fire safety rules promulgated by the department of justice, the person making the inspection or the department shall serve a written notice upon the party whose duty it is to maintain the safety of the building.

(2) The notice must specify the time within which the defective conditions must be remedied.

(3) The notice is served if delivered to the person to be notified, if left with any adult person at the usual residence or place of business of the person to be notified, or if deposited in the post office directed to the last-known address of the person to be notified. Whenever buildings are managed and controlled by a board of trustees, board of commissioners, or other governing body, the notice is served if delivered to the president, secretary, or treasurer of the board of trustees, board of commissioners, or other governing body.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Structures creating fire hazard a public nuisance, 50-62-102.

50-61-116. Lessee who corrects violations entitled to reimbursement. The occupant or lessee of any building who is required to erect fire escapes under the provisions of this chapter is entitled to reimbursement for the cost and expense of erecting the fire escapes out of the rent or lease money of the premises, and the reimbursement is not a breach of any existing lease, contract, or covenant or grounds for any action or damage ouster.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1808(part); amd. Sec. 1863, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Structures creating fire hazard a public nuisance, 50-62-102.

The Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, Title 70, ch. 24.

50-61-117. Prosecution of violations. It is the duty of the department of justice or other authorized officer to furnish the county attorney with all evidence of violations of rules adopted by the department within the county where said violations occur, and, if the evidence discloses the fact that a violation has occurred, it is the duty of the county attorney of the county to prosecute the person committing the violation in the same manner as in other cases.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1809(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

50-61-118. Injunction authorized. In addition to the other remedies and penalties provided in this chapter, upon the failure of any of the parties charged with the duty to maintain the safety of the building premises in accordance with rules adopted by the department of justice, the attorney general of the state or the county attorney of the county where the building is located shall bring an action against the owner, lessee, and occupants of the building for an injunction enjoining the further occupancy of it until it is in compliance with this chapter. The action may be brought in the county where the building is located.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1810; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-61-119. Violation of chapter a misdemeanor. (1) Any person failing, neglecting, or refusing to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50.

(2) Each day's failure to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter, after the expiration of the time stipulated in the written notice provided for herein, shall constitute a separate offense.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 279, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1809(part).

50-61-120. Exceeding fire code limits for storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers. (1) A retail establishment may exceed the limits prescribed by an adopted fire or safety code or a local government ordinance or resolution for the storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers if the storage conforms to the provisions contained in 50-61-121.

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed to allow repackaging of smokeless powder from larger to smaller containers on the retail premises.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Regulation of explosives and inflammable materials, 7-33-4205.
Powers and duties of Department of Justice, 50-3-102.

50-61-121. Restrictions on storage of smokeless powder and small arms primers. (1) A retail establishment may stock up to 400 pounds of smokeless powder on the premises of a building with a sprinkler system or 200 pounds on the premises of a building without a sprinkler system if storage of this stock conforms to the following conditions:

(a) no more than 20 pounds are on display in a customer service area;

(b) the storage area is clearly posted as off limits to customers;

(c) the storage area is clearly posted prohibiting smoking or any open flame or sparks; and

(d) the storage area is a room designed and constructed to restrict smoke travel that is separate from the customer service area, that has a self-closing entrance door, and that conforms to one of the following:

(i) It is constructed of material sufficient to achieve a 1-hour fire resistant-rated barrier between the storage area and the customer service area. The smokeless powder must be stored in cabinets made of wood or equivalent material that is at least 1 inch thick, and each cabinet must contain no more than 200 pounds of smokeless powder. Cabinets must be separated by 25 feet.

(ii) It is protected by a fire suppression sprinkler system approved by the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice or a chief of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, or the chief's designee, and the storage area has cabinets as provided for in subsection (1)(d)(i).

(iii) Smokeless powder stock is contained in a cabinet with casters and constructed of wood at least 1 inch thick that is covered on all sides with 5/8-inch sheetrock.

(2) A retail establishment may stock up to 250,000 small arms primers if storage of this stock conforms to the following conditions:

(a) no more than 20,000 primers in a building with a sprinkler system or 10,000 primers in a building without a sprinkler system are on display in a customer service area;

(b) the storage area must conform to the conditions imposed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d), except that no more than 125,000 small arms primers may be stored in one cabinet, and the minimum required separation between cabinets is 15 feet; and

(c) small arms primers are retained in packaging approved by the U.S. department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Regulation of explosives and inflammable materials, 7-33-4205.
Powers and duties of Department of Justice, 50-3-102.

CHAPTER 62
FIRE HAZARDS

Part 1 — Removal of Hazards

50-62-101. Entering of buildings for purpose of examination authorized.
50-62-102. Structures or conditions creating fire hazard a public nuisance — order to remedy.
50-62-103. Service of order to repair hazardous condition or demolish structure.
50-62-104. Answer of owner or occupant.
50-62-105. Default judgment.
50-62-106. Hearing and judgment.
50-62-107. Proceedings on failure to comply with order.
50-62-108. Repealed.
50-62-109. Repealed.
50-62-110. Appeal to department of justice.
50-62-111. Penalty for failure to comply with order to correct.
50-62-112. Notice of violations.

Part 1
Removal of Hazards

Part Cross-References

Fire protection in unincorporated towns, Title 7, ch. 33, parts 21 through 23.

Municipal power to establish and maintain fire department and alarm system, 7-33-4201, 7-33-4202.

Municipal power to inspect and regulate certain fire hazards, explosives, and other inflammable materials, 7-33-4204, 7-33-4205.

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.

Offense of giving false alarms, 45-7-204.

Criminal offense to maintain public nuisance, 45-8-111.

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3, part 1.

Fire hazards in oil and gas operations, 82-11-302.

50-62-101. Entering of buildings for purpose of examination authorized. An officer of the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice or the chief or chief's designee of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, where a fire agency is established at all reasonable hours may, as authorized by law, enter into all buildings and upon all premises within the officer's, chief's, or designee's jurisdiction for the purpose of determining whether the building or premises conforms to laws and rules relating to fire hazards and fire safety.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2752, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2752, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 229, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1218; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-62-102. Structures or conditions creating fire hazard a public nuisance — order to remedy. (1) If any building or other structure is especially liable to fire for reasons including but not limited to lack of proper repair, age, dilapidated condition, defective or poorly installed wiring and equipment, defective chimneys, defective gas connections, defective heating apparatus, or the existence of any combustible materials, flammable conditions, or other fire hazards and is dangerous to the safety of the building premises or to the public or is situated in a way that endangers other buildings and property in the vicinity, the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice or other person identified in 50-62-101 may declare the building or other structure to be a public nuisance and proceed according to 50-62-103 or subsection (2) of this section.

(2) If the state fire prevention and investigation section, an officer of the section, or a person identified in 50-62-101 determines that a building or other structure constitutes a public nuisance for any reason identified in subsection (1) of this section, the section, officer, or other person shall order the hazardous condition or material to be removed or remedied. The order must be in writing and directed generally to the owner, lessee, agent, or occupant of the building or structure.

(3) If the hazardous condition or material can be removed or remedied within a period of 24 hours, the order must contain notice that the condition or material must be remedied or

removed. The owner, lessee, agent, or occupant upon whom the notice is served who fails to comply with the notice is liable for any expenses incurred in the removal or remedying of the hazardous condition or material by the fire prevention and investigation section, officer of the section, or other person identified in 50-62-101.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2753, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1219(part); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

50-62-103. Service of order to repair hazardous condition or demolish structure. (1) If the fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice, an officer of the section, or any other person identified in 50-62-101, upon an examination or inspection, determines that a building or other structure constitutes a public nuisance for any reason identified in 50-62-102 and the condition cannot be removed or remedied within 24 hours, the section, officer, or person shall order the hazardous condition to be repaired or the structure to be torn down or demolished and all dangerous conditions remedied.

(2) The order must be in writing, must provide the grounds for the order, and must be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court of the county in which the building or structure ordered to be altered, repaired, or demolished is located. All further proceedings for the enforcement of the order must be held in the district court in which the order is filed.

(3) A copy of the order filed as provided in this section, together with a written notice that it has been filed and will be put in force unless the owner, occupant, or tenant files objections or an answer to the order with the clerk of the court within the time specified in 50-62-104, must be served upon the owner and any purchaser under contract for deed of the building or structure directed to be altered, repaired, or demolished. If there is a tenant occupying the building, service must also be made upon the tenant. Service must be made personally upon the owner and occupant, if there is one.

(4) If the location of the owner or any purchaser under contract for deed is unknown and cannot be ascertained by the department of justice by the exercise of reasonable diligence, then upon filing in the office of the clerk of the district court an affidavit to this effect, service of the notice upon the owner or any purchaser under contract for deed may be made by the clerk of the district court by publication of it once in each week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper printed and published in the county in which the building or structure is located and by posting a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place upon the building or structure. Service made in this manner is complete upon the expiration of the publication period. Proof of service of the notice must be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court within 5 days after the service of the notice.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2753, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1219(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 526, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-62-104. Answer of owner or occupant. (1) The owner of any building condemned or any occupant or lessee upon whom the condemnation notice or order is served, within 20 days from the date of service, may file with the clerk of the district court and serve upon the department of justice or any officer mentioned in 50-62-101 written objections to the order in the form of a verified answer denying the existence of any of the facts cited in the notice or order that the person desires to contest.

(2) If an answer is filed and served, the court shall hear and determine the issues raised and give judgment.

History: En. Sec. 2753-A, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1220(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1864, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-62-105. Default judgment. If no answer is so filed and served, the owner and all other persons in interest shall be deemed to be in default, and thereupon the court shall affirm the order of condemnation and direct the department of justice or other officer to proceed with the enforcement thereof.

History: **En. Sec. 2753-A, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1220(part); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 706, L. 1991.**

50-62-106. Hearing and judgment. (1) The court, upon application of the department of justice or any officer mentioned in 50-62-101, shall make its order fixing a time and place for such hearing, which time shall be within 20 days from the date of the filing of the answer or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

(2) If upon trial the order shall be sustained, judgment shall be given accordingly and a time shall be fixed within which the building or structure shall be altered, destroyed, or repaired in compliance with such order, but otherwise the court shall annul or set aside the order of condemnation.

History: **En. Sec. 2753-B, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1221; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 706, L. 1991.**

50-62-107. Proceedings on failure to comply with order. (1) If the owner or other party in interest shall fail to comply with the order of condemnation of a building or structure within the time fixed by the court in case a trial is had therein, then the department of justice or any other officer authorized in 50-62-101 may proceed to cause such building or structure to be altered, repaired, or demolished in accordance with the directions contained in such order.

(2) Where a building or structure is demolished in accordance with such order, the department or any other officer authorized in 50-62-101 may sell or dispose of the salvaged materials therefrom at public auction upon 5 days' posted notice. The department or other officer shall keep an accurate account of the expenses incurred in carrying out the order and shall credit thereon the proceeds of such salvage sale, if any, and shall report thereon with a statement of said expenses or the balance thereof, the expense incurred, and the amount, if any, received from such salvage sale to the court for approval and allowance. The court shall examine, correct if necessary, and allow said expense account, and said amount so allowed shall constitute a lien against the real estate on which said building or structure is or was situated. If the amount thereof is not paid by the owner or other party in interest within 3 months after the account has been examined and approved by the court, the real estate upon which said building or structure is or was situated shall be sold under proper order of court by the sheriff of the county in which the same is situated in the manner provided by law for the sale of real estate upon execution, and the proceeds of said sale shall be paid into the treasury of the governmental unit which incurred the expenses. If the amount received as salvage or on sale shall exceed the expense incurred by the governmental unit, the court shall direct the payment of the surplus to those parties with encumbrances, mortgages, or liens on the real estate in order of their priority and any surplus thereafter to the owner or the payment of the same into court for their use and benefit.

History: **En. Sec. 2753-C, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 418, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1222; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 706, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Mortgages, Title 71, ch. 1.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

50-62-108. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2753-D, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1223(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1989.**

50-62-109. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2753-D, Ch. 139, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2753.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1223(part).**

50-62-110. Appeal to department of justice. If the owner or occupant feels aggrieved by an order of an officer under this chapter, the owner or occupant may appeal to the department of justice within 24 hours and the cause of the complaint must be investigated, in a timely manner, by direction of the department. Unless the order is revoked by the department, it remains in force and must be complied with by the owner or occupant.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2754, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2754, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1224; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1865, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-62-111. Penalty for failure to comply with order to correct. An owner or occupant of buildings or premises who fails to comply with the orders of the authorities named in this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than $10 or more than $500 for each day's neglect.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2755, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2755, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1225; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

50-62-112. Notice of violations. (1) When the storage of class I or class II liquids, as defined in the fire code adopted by the department of justice, in a tank on a farm or ranch is not in compliance with rules promulgated by the department of justice, the person making the inspection or the department shall serve a written warning notice upon the owner or operator of the tank.

(2) The notice must specify the violations found and the time within which the violations must be corrected. A penalty may not be imposed if the violation is corrected within the time period allowed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Department of Justice to adopt fire code as rules, 50-3-102, 50-3-103.
Rules regarding storage of class I or class II liquids on farms and ranches, 50-3-103.

CHAPTER 63
INVESTIGATION OF FIRES

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-63-101. Examination of premises where fire occurred authorized.
50-63-102. Civil penalty for setting or leaving fire causing damage.
50-63-103. Liability of offender for damages and costs.
50-63-104. Liability for forest or range fires.

Part 2 — Initial Investigation

50-63-201. Cause of fire to be investigated.
50-63-202. Fire chief or sheriff to conduct investigation.
50-63-203. Notification to department of justice — reports to be filed.
50-63-204. Penalty for failure to investigate or file report.

Part 3 — Investigation by Fire Marshal (Repealed)

Part 4 — Information From Insurers

50-63-401. Insurer to provide information regarding fire loss to certain agencies upon request.
50-63-402. Insurer to report suspicious fires.
50-63-403. Agencies to keep information confidential.
50-63-404. Testimony of agency personnel in action to recover under insurance policy.
50-63-405. Exemption of insurer from liability.

Chapter Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.
Offense of giving false alarms, 45-7-204.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-63-101. Examination of premises where fire occurred authorized. In the performance of the duties imposed by the provisions of this chapter, officers of the department of justice may, as authorized by law, enter upon and examine any building or premises where a fire has occurred and other buildings and premises adjoining or near thereto.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2751, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2751, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1217; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

Cross-References

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-63-102. Civil penalty for setting or leaving fire causing damage. A person who sets or leaves a fire that spreads and damages or destroys property of any kind not belonging to the person is subject to a civil penalty of not less than $50 or more than $500.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2766, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2766, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1236; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 449, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.
Offense of giving false alarms, 45-7-204.
Failure to extinguish campfires on forest lands, 76-13-123.
Throwing lighted materials on forest lands, 76-13-124.

50-63-103. Liability of offender for damages and costs. Except as provided in 50-63-104, a person who sets or leaves a fire that spreads and damages or destroys property of any kind not belonging to the person is liable for all damages caused by the fire, and an owner of property damaged or destroyed by the fire may maintain a civil suit for the purpose of recovering damages. A person who sets or leaves a fire that threatens to spread and damage or destroy property is liable for all costs and expenses incurred, including but not limited to expenses incurred in investigation of the fire and administration of fire suppression, by the state of Montana, by any forestry association, or by any person extinguishing or preventing the spread of the fire.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 170, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2769, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2769, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1237; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Failure to extinguish campfires on forest lands, 76-13-123.
Throwing lighted materials on forest lands, 76-13-124.

50-63-104. Liability for forest or range fires. (1) In a civil action against any person or legal entity that is not a state government entity or a political subdivision of state government, for a forest or range fire caused by a negligent or unintentional act or omission that is not willful or wanton, the real and personal property damage is limited to:

(a) the reasonable costs for controlling or extinguishing the forest or range fire;

(b) economic damages; and

(c) either:

(i) the diminution of fair market value of the real and personal property resulting from the fire; or

(ii) the actual and tangible restoration costs associated with restoring the damaged real and personal property to its undamaged state to the extent that those actual and tangible costs are reasonable and practical. The costs of restoring the unimproved property may not be greater than the fair market value of the property immediately before the fire.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "economic damages" means objectively verifiable monetary loss, including but not limited to out-of-pocket expenses, loss of earnings, loss of use of property, and loss of business or employment opportunities;

(b) "fair market value" means the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller in an arm's-length transaction when both parties are fully informed about all of the advantages and disadvantages of the property and neither is acting under any compulsion to buy or sell, as determined by a certified appraiser who is qualified to appraise the property;

(c) "forest or range fire" means a fire that burns any unimproved real property located outside of an incorporated municipality, regardless of whether there are improvements also affected by the fire and regardless of whether the fire also burns property within an incorporated municipality.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 2015.**

Part 2
Initial Investigation

50-63-201. Cause of fire to be investigated. The origin, cause, and circumstances of each fire by which property has been destroyed or damaged shall be investigated to determine the cause and circumstances. The department of justice may superintend and direct the investigation.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1209(1); amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3.

50-63-202. Fire chief or sheriff to conduct investigation. If the fire occurs within a municipality, organized fire district, or fire service area, the chief of the governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, having jurisdiction or the chief's designee shall conduct the investigation. If the fire occurs outside a municipality, organized fire district, or fire service area, the county sheriff shall conduct the investigation or ensure that an investigation is conducted.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1209(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 212, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-63-203. Notification to department of justice — reports to be filed. (1) If it appears that a fire was of suspicious origin, if there was a loss of human life, or if it is determined that a criminal investigation is necessary, the official responsible for the investigation shall notify the department of justice and the appropriate law enforcement agency within 24 hours and shall file with the department a written report of the cause within 10 days.

(2) If the property was insured, as soon as any adjustment has been made, a person representing the insurance company shall notify the department of justice of the amount of adjustment and the apparent cause and circumstances of the fire.

(3) Each official responsible for investigating fires shall file with the department of justice a fire incident report on each fire. Reports must be made on forms provided by the department and must contain information prescribed by the department. These reports must be sent to the department on a monthly basis or at intervals determined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2743, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 229, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1209(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 387, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-63-204. Penalty for failure to investigate or file report. Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this part shall be fined not less than $25 or more than $200.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2745, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2745, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 229, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1211.

Part 3
Investigation by Fire Marshal
(Repealed)

50-63-301. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: (1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2746, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2746, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1212, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1215, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1212, 82-1215(part).

50-63-302. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2750, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2750, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1216.

50-63-303. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: (1)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2748, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. 2748, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1214, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1215, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1214, 82-1215(part).

50-63-304. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1215(part).

50-63-305. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1215(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 140, L. 1985.

50-63-306. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1215(part).

50-63-307. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1215(part).

50-63-308. Repealed. Sec. 37, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

History: (1)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 148, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 2747, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2747, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-1213, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 82-1215, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 82-1213, 82-1215(part).

Part 4
Information From Insurers

Part Cross-References

Insurance and Insurance Companies, Title 33.
Property insurance, Title 33, ch. 24.

50-63-401. Insurer to provide information regarding fire loss to certain agencies upon request. Each insurer engaged in issuing fire insurance policies in the state of Montana shall upon written request of any appropriate law enforcement agency or governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, release to the requesting agency all information in its possession relating to a fire loss of real or personal property. The information may include but is not limited to:

(1) any insurance policy relevant to the fire loss under investigation and any application for the policy;
(2) premium payment records;
(3) the history of previous claims made by the insured for fire loss; and
(4) material relating to the investigation of the loss, including statements of any person, proof of loss, and other relevant evidence.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

50-63-402. Insurer to report suspicious fires. When an insurer has reason to believe that a fire loss in which it has an interest may be of other than accidental cause, it shall notify an appropriate law enforcement agency or governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, and provide the agency with all material developed from its inquiry into the fire loss.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 145, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.

50-63-403. Agencies to keep information confidential. The insured's right of individual privacy requires agencies and agency personnel receiving information furnished pursuant to 50-63-401 and 50-63-402 to hold the information in confidence unless:

(1) the insured waives the right of individual privacy; or
(2) release of the information is required pursuant to a criminal or civil proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 145, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1866, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.

50-63-404. Testimony of agency personnel in action to recover under insurance policy. Law enforcement agency and governmental fire agency personnel may be required to testify as to any information in their possession regarding the fire loss of real or personal property in any civil action in which a person seeks recovery from an insurer under a policy for the fire loss.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 145, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.

50-63-405. Exemption of insurer from liability. In the absence of fraud or bad faith, the insurer or person who furnished information on its behalf is not subject to liability in any civil action for:

(1) furnishing information as required by 50-63-401; or
(2) notifying an appropriate agency of a fire loss as required by 50-63-402.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 145, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

False reports to law enforcement authorities, 45-7-205.

CHAPTER 64
ASBESTOS REGULATION IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-64-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7401.**

50-64-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7402 by Sec. 2, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7402; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 352, L. 1985.**

50-64-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7406 by Sec. 6, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7406.**

50-64-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7403 by Sec. 3, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7403.**

50-64-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7404 by Sec. 4, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7404.**

50-64-106. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7405 by Sec. 5, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7405.**

50-64-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2001.
History: **En. 69-7407 by Sec. 7, Ch. 570, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-7407.**

CHAPTER 65
CIGARETTE STANDARDS

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-65-101. Definitions.
50-65-102. Cigarette test method and performance standard — conditions on sale — alternative test method and performance standard.
50-65-103. Certification — fee for certification — product change.
50-65-104. Marking on cigarette packaging.
50-65-105 through 50-65-109 reserved.
50-65-110. Penalties.
50-65-111. Implementation — rulemaking authority — inspection for proper markings.
50-65-112. Inspection.
50-65-113 and 50-65-114 reserved.
50-65-115. Sale outside Montana.
50-65-116 through 50-65-119 reserved.
50-65-120. Preemption.
50-65-121. Local consistency required.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-65-101. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agent" means a person authorized by the department of revenue to purchase and affix stamps on packages of cigarettes.

(2) "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape and whether or not the tobacco is flavored, adulterated, or mixed with any other ingredient, the wrapper or cover of which is made of nontobacco paper or any other substance or material except tobacco.

(3) "Manufacturer" means:

(a) an entity that manufactures or otherwise produces cigarettes or causes cigarettes that the manufacturer intends to be sold in this state to be manufactured or produced anywhere, including cigarettes intended to be sold in the United States through an importer;

(b) the first purchaser anywhere that intends to resell in the United States cigarettes manufactured anywhere that the original manufacturer or maker does not intend to be sold in the United States; or

(c) an entity that becomes a successor of an entity described in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b).

(4) "Quality control and quality assurance program" means the laboratory procedures implemented to ensure that operator bias, systemic and nonsystemic methodological errors, and equipment-related problems do not affect the results of testing. The program ensures that the testing repeatability remains within the required repeatability values provided in 50-65-102(2)(f) for all test trials used to certify cigarettes in accordance with this chapter.

(5) "Repeatability" means the range of values within which the repeat results of cigarette test trials from a single laboratory will fall 95% of the time.

(6) "Retail dealer" means a person, other than a manufacturer or wholesale dealer, engaged in selling cigarettes or tobacco products.

(7) "Sale" means any transfer of title of cigarettes for consideration, exchange, barter, gift, offer for sale, or distribution, in any manner or by any means.

(8) "Wholesale dealer" means a person who sells cigarettes or tobacco products to retail dealers or other persons for purposes of resale and a person who owns, operates, or maintains one or more cigarette or tobacco product vending machines in, at, or upon premises owned or occupied by any other person.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 2007.

50-65-102. Cigarette test method and performance standard — conditions on sale — alternative test method and performance standard. (1) Except as provided in subsection (7), cigarettes may not be sold or offered for sale in this state or sold or offered for sale to persons located in this state unless:

(a) the cigarettes have been tested in accordance with the test method provided in this section;

(b) the cigarettes meet the performance standard specified in this section;

(c) the manufacturer has filed a written certification with the state fire marshal in accordance with 50-65-103; and

(d) the cigarettes have been marked in accordance with 50-65-104.

(2) (a) Testing of cigarettes must be conducted in accordance with the American society for testing and materials standard E2187-04, the standard test method for measuring the ignition strength of cigarettes.

(b) Testing must be conducted on 10 layers of filter paper.

(c) No more than 25% of the cigarettes tested in a test trial in accordance with this section may exhibit full-length burns. Forty replicate tests compose a complete test trial for each cigarette used.

(d) The performance standards required in subsection (2)(c) may be applied only to a complete test trial.

(e) Written certifications must be based upon testing conducted by a laboratory that has been accredited pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025 of the international organization for standardization or another comparable accreditation standard required by the state fire marshal.

(f) Laboratories conducting testing in accordance with this section shall implement a quality control and quality assurance program that includes a procedure for determining the repeatability of the testing results. The repeatability value may not be greater than 0.19.

(g) This section does not require additional testing if cigarettes are tested for any other purpose in a manner that is consistent with this chapter.

(h) Testing performed or sponsored by the state fire marshal to determine a cigarette's compliance with the required performance standard must be conducted in accordance with this section.

(3) Each cigarette listed in a certification submitted pursuant to 50-65-103 that uses lowered permeability bands in the cigarette paper to achieve compliance with the performance standard provided in this section must have at least two nominally identical bands on the paper surrounding the tobacco column. At least one complete band must be located at least 15 millimeters from the lighting end of the cigarette. For cigarettes on which the bands are positioned by design, there must be at least two bands fully located at least 15 millimeters from the lighting end and 10 millimeters from the filter end of the tobacco column or, for nonfiltered cigarettes, 10 millimeters from the labeled end of the tobacco column.

(4) (a) A manufacturer of a cigarette that the state fire marshal determines cannot be tested in accordance with the test method prescribed in subsection (2)(a) shall propose a test method and performance standard for the cigarette to the state fire marshal.

(b) Upon approval of the proposed test method and a determination by the state fire marshal that the performance standard proposed by the manufacturer is equivalent to the performance standard prescribed in subsection (2)(c), the manufacturer may employ that test method and performance standard to certify a cigarette pursuant to 50-65-103.

(c) If the state fire marshal determines that another state has enacted reduced cigarette ignition propensity standards that include a test method and performance standard that are the same as those contained in 50-65-102 and the state fire marshal determines that the officials responsible for implementing those requirements have approved the proposed alternative test method and performance standard for a particular cigarette proposed by a manufacturer as meeting the fire safety standards of that state's law or regulation under provisions comparable to this section, the state fire marshal shall authorize the manufacturer to employ the alternative test method and performance standard to certify the cigarette for sale in this state unless the state fire marshal demonstrates a reasonable basis why the alternative test is unacceptable. All other applicable provisions of this section apply to the manufacturer even if the alternative test method and performance standard are authorized.

(5) Each manufacturer shall maintain copies of the reports of all tests conducted on all cigarettes offered for sale for a period of 3 years and shall make copies of these reports available to the state fire marshal and the attorney general upon written request. A manufacturer who fails to make copies of the reports available within 60 days of receipt of a written request is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each day after the 60th day that the manufacturer does not make the copies available.

(6) The state fire marshal may adopt a subsequent American society for testing and materials standard test method for measuring the ignition strength of cigarettes upon a finding that the subsequent method does not result in a change in the percentage of full-length burns exhibited by any tested cigarette when compared to the percentage of full-length burns that the same cigarette would exhibit when tested in accordance with the standard provided in subsection (2)(a) and the performance standard in subsection (2)(c).

(7) The requirements of subsection (1) do not prohibit a wholesale dealer or retail dealer from selling the wholesale dealer's or retail dealer's existing inventory of cigarettes on or after May 1, 2008, if the wholesale dealer or retail dealer can establish that state tax stamps were affixed to the cigarettes prior to May 1, 2008, and if the wholesale dealer or retail dealer establishes that the inventory was purchased prior to May 1, 2008, in comparable quantity to the inventory purchased during the same period of the prior year.

(8) Because this chapter is based on New York law, it is the intent of the legislature that this chapter be implemented in accordance with the implementation and substance of the New York executive law section 156-c, fire safety standards for cigarettes.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 318, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 28, L. 2013.**

50-65-103. Certification — fee for certification — product change. (1) Each manufacturer shall submit to the department of justice a written certification attesting that each cigarette listed in the certification:

(a) has been tested in accordance with 50-65-102; and

(b) meets the performance standard provided in 50-65-102(2)(c).

(2) Each cigarette listed in the certification must be described with the following information:

(a) brand or trade name on the package;

(b) style, such as light or ultralight;

(c) length in millimeters;

(d) circumference in millimeters;

(e) flavor, such as menthol or chocolate, if applicable;

(f) filter or nonfilter;

(g) package description, such as soft pack or box;

(h) marking approved in accordance with 50-65-104;

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the laboratory, if different from the manufacturer, that conducted the test; and

(j) the date that the testing occurred.

(3) Certifications must be made available to the attorney general for purposes consistent with this chapter and to the department of revenue for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this section.

(4) Each cigarette certified under this section must be recertified every 3 years.

(5) (a) For each cigarette listed in a certification, a manufacturer shall pay a fee, not to exceed $250, to offset the actual costs of the processing, testing, enforcement, and oversight activities required in this chapter.

(b) There is an account in the state special revenue fund in which fees collected under this subsection (5) must be deposited to the credit of the department of justice. Money collected may be used only by the department of justice for the purposes provided in subsection (5)(a).

(6) If a manufacturer has certified a cigarette pursuant to this section and later makes any change to the cigarette that is likely to alter its compliance with the reduced cigarette ignition propensity standards required by this chapter, the cigarette may not be sold or offered for sale in this state until the manufacturer retests the cigarette in accordance with the testing standards provided in 50-65-102 and maintains records of the retesting as required by 50-65-102. Any altered cigarette that does not meet the performance standard provided in 50-65-102 may not be sold in this state.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 318, L. 2007.

50-65-104. Marking on cigarette packaging. (1) Cigarettes that are certified by a manufacturer in accordance with 50-65-103 must be marked to indicate compliance with the requirements of 50-65-102. The marking must be in 8-point type or larger and consist of:

(a) modification of the universal product code to include a visible mark printed at or around the area of the code. The mark may consist of alphanumeric or symbolic characters permanently stamped, engraved, embossed, or printed in conjunction with the code;

(b) any visible combination of alphanumeric or symbolic characters permanently stamped, engraved, or embossed upon the cigarette package or cellophane wrap; or

(c) stamped, engraved, embossed, or printed text that indicates that the cigarettes meet the standards required in this chapter.

(2) A manufacturer may use only one marking and shall uniformly apply the marking to all packages, including but not limited to packs, cartons, and cases, and brands marketed by the manufacturer.

(3) The department of revenue must be notified of the marking that is selected.

(4) Prior to the certification of any cigarette, a manufacturer shall present its proposed marking to the department of revenue for approval. Upon receipt of the request, the department of revenue shall approve or disapprove the marking offered, except that the department of revenue shall approve any marking in use and approved for sale in New York pursuant to New York executive law section 156-c, the New York fire safety standards for cigarettes. Proposed markings must be considered to be approved if the department of revenue fails to act within 10 business days of receiving a request for approval.

(5) A manufacturer may not modify its approved marking unless the modification has been approved by the department of revenue in accordance with this section.

(6) Manufacturers certifying cigarettes in accordance with 50-65-103 shall provide a copy of the certification to all wholesale dealers and agents to whom they sell cigarettes and shall also provide sufficient copies of an illustration of the package marking used by the manufacturer pursuant to this section for each retail dealer to whom the wholesale dealers or agents sell cigarettes. Wholesale dealers and agents shall provide a copy of these package markings received from manufacturers to all retail dealers to whom they sell cigarettes.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 318, L. 2007.

50-65-105 through 50-65-109 reserved.

50-65-110. Penalties. (1) A manufacturer, wholesale dealer, agent, or any other person or entity that knowingly sells or offers to sell cigarettes, other than through retail sale, in violation of 50-65-102, for a first offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each sale of the cigarettes and, for a subsequent offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $25,000 for each sale of the cigarettes. However, the penalty may not exceed $100,000 during any 30-day period.

(2) (a) A retail dealer who knowingly sells cigarettes in violation of 50-65-102:

(i) for a first offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $100 and, for a subsequent offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $400 for each sale or offer for sale of the cigarettes if the total number of cigarettes sold or offered for sale does not exceed 1,000 cigarettes; or

(ii) for a first offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000 and, for a subsequent offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $5,000 for each sale or offer for sale of the cigarettes if the total number of cigarettes sold or offered for sale exceeds 1,000 cigarettes.

(b) The total penalty against a retail dealer provided in this subsection (2) may not exceed $25,000 during a 30-day period.

(3) In addition to any penalty prescribed by law, any corporation, partnership, sole proprietor, limited liability company, limited partnership, or association engaged in the manufacture of cigarettes that knowingly makes a false certification pursuant to 50-65-103 is, for a first offense, subject to a civil penalty of at least $75,000 and, for a subsequent offense, a civil penalty not to exceed $250,000 for each false certification.

(4) A person violating any other provision in this chapter is subject to a civil penalty for a first offense not to exceed $1,000 and, for a subsequent offense, a civil penalty not to exceed $5,000 for each violation.

(5) Any cigarettes that have been sold or offered for sale that do not comply with the performance standard required by 50-65-102 are subject to forfeiture under 16-11-159 if prior to the destruction of any cigarette seized pursuant to these provisions, the true holder of the trademark rights in the cigarette brand is permitted to inspect the cigarette.

(6) In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the department of justice may file an action in the appropriate district court for a violation of this chapter, including petitioning for injunctive relief or to recover any costs or damages suffered by the state because of a violation of this chapter, including enforcement costs related to the specific violation and attorney fees. Each violation of this chapter or of rules adopted under this chapter constitutes a separate civil violation for which the department of justice may obtain relief.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 318, L. 2007.

50-65-111. Implementation — rulemaking authority — inspection for proper markings. (1) The department of justice and the department of revenue may adopt rules, pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The department of revenue in the regular course of conducting inspections of wholesale dealers, agents, and retail dealers, as authorized under Title 16, chapter 11, may inspect cigarettes to determine if the cigarettes are marked as required by 50-65-104. If the cigarettes are not marked as required, the department of revenue shall notify the department of justice.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 318, L. 2007.

50-65-112. Inspection. To enforce the provisions of this chapter, the department of revenue may examine the books, papers, invoices, and other records of any person in possession, control, or occupancy of any premises where cigarettes are placed, stored, sold, or offered for sale, as well as the stock of cigarettes on the premises. Each person in the possession, control, or occupancy of any premises where cigarettes are placed, stored, sold, or offered for sale shall give the department of revenue the means, facilities, and opportunity for the examinations authorized by this section.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 318, L. 2007.**

50-65-113 and 50-65-114 reserved.

50-65-115. Sale outside Montana. This chapter may not be construed to prohibit a person or entity from manufacturing or selling cigarettes that do not meet the requirements of 50-65-102 if the cigarettes are or will be stamped for sale in another state or are packaged for sale outside the United States and if the person or entity has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the cigarettes will not be sold or offered for sale to a person located in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 318, L. 2007.**

50-65-116 through 50-65-119 reserved.

50-65-120. Preemption. This chapter no longer applies if a federal reduced cigarette ignition propensity standard that preempts this chapter is adopted and becomes effective.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 318, L. 2007.**

50-65-121. Local consistency required. The provisions of 7-1-113 apply in the administration and application of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 318, L. 2007.**

CHAPTERS 66 THROUGH 69
RESERVED

CHAPTER 70
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-70-101. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4206.**

50-70-102. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4207.**

50-70-103. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4208; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 320, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1999.**

50-70-104. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4209.**

50-70-105. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. 69-4211.1 by Sec. 38, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4211.1; amd. Sec. 321, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 1999.**

50-70-106. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4211(part).**

50-70-107. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4204.**

50-70-108. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4220; amd. Sec. 322, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

50-70-109. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4219; amd. Sec. 323, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

50-70-110. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 25, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4211(part); amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 324, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-111. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4218; amd. Sec. 325, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 25, L. 1999.

50-70-112. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4212; amd. Sec. 326, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-113. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4214; amd. Sec. 327, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-114. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 316, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4217; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 328, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-115. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4213.

50-70-116. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4215; amd. Sec. 329, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-117. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4216; amd. Sec. 330, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-70-118. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 316, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4221; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

CHAPTER 71
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Part 1 — Montana Occupational Safety and Health Act

50-71-101. Repealed.
50-71-102. Renumbered 50-71-204.
50-71-103. Repealed.
50-71-104. Repealed.
50-71-105. Repealed.
50-71-106. Repealed.
50-71-107. Repealed.
50-71-108. Repealed.
50-71-109. Repealed.
50-71-110. Repealed.
50-71-111. Short title.
50-71-112. Definitions.
50-71-113. Administrative authority — funding.
50-71-114. Rulemaking — variances.
50-71-115. Applicability of standards — exceptions.
50-71-116. Duties of public sector employers and public sector employees.
50-71-117. Public sector employer records and reports.
50-71-118. Inspections.
50-71-119. Report of inspection — violations — penalty — appeal process.
50-71-120. Stop-work orders.
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50-71-122. Safety consultation services.
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Part 2 — Duties of Employer and Employee

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Part 1
Montana Occupational Safety and Health Act

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.
Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.

50-71-101. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1708.

50-71-102. Renumbered 50-71-204. Sec. 24(2), Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-103. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1731; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-71-104. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1732.

50-71-105. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1713(part).

50-71-106. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1713(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-107. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1729(1); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-108. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1729(2); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-109. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1733; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 331, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

50-71-110. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1730.

50-71-111. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Occupational Safety and Health Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-112. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(2) "Employee" has the meaning provided in 39-71-118.

(3) "Employer" has the meaning provided in 39-71-117.

(4) "Health" means protection against occupational illness.

(5) "Inspection" means an onsite review of a workplace by the department to determine compliance with standards adopted under this part.

(6) "Private sector employer" means any employer that is not a public sector employer. The term includes for-profit and not-for-profit employers.

(7) (a) "Public sector employee" means an employee of a public sector employer.

(b) The term does not include a contractor.

(8) "Public sector employer" means:

(a) a state agency;

(b) each county in the state;

(c) each municipality in the state;

(d) each school district or community college; and

(e) any other political subdivision of the state.

(9) "Safety" means protection against occupational injury or death.

(10) "Safety consultation services" has the meaning provided in 39-71-1503.

(11) "Standard" means a rule adopted by the department pursuant to this part that is designed to promote or ensure safety or health in the workplace.

(12) "State agency" means any branch of government, including a department, board, commission, office, bureau, institution, university system entity, or unit of state government recognized in the state budget.

(13) "Workplace" means any site or location where an employee performs work for the employee's employer.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 27, L. 2009.**

50-71-113. Administrative authority — funding. (1) The department has authority to administer the provisions of this part.

(2) In addition to administering the provisions of this part, the department may:

(a) promote occupational safety and health;

(b) educate employers and employees in occupational safety and health matters;

(c) conduct research regarding occupational safety and health data, topics, and techniques; and

(d) investigate occupational injuries, illnesses, and deaths involving public sector employees.

(3) The department may develop and operate a statewide employment safety program. The statewide employment safety program may include but is not limited to:

(a) a safety awareness component;

(b) an employee education component;

(c) an employer education component; and

(d) industry-specific initiatives.

(4) The activities of the department under the provisions of this part are funded by the occupational safety and health administration fund provided for in 50-71-128.

(5) The department may accept, receive, and administer gifts, grants, or other funds from public or private agencies and from the United States for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part. Funds received by the department under this subsection must be deposited into the fund provided for in 50-71-128.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 27, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 2015.**

50-71-114. Rulemaking — variances. (1) The department may adopt appropriate standards for safety and health by administrative rule, including:

(a) any safety or health regulations promulgated by the federal occupational safety and health administration; and

(b) standards that are not inconsistent with federal safety and health regulation but that provide for a greater level of protection for employees.

(2) The department may adopt other rules that are reasonably necessary to implement this part.

(3) (a) The department may by rule:

(i) provide a procedure to grant a temporary variance from the particular provisions of a standard; and

(ii) permit the temporary use of other or different devices or methods than provided by the standard.

(b) A temporary variance may be granted only if the public sector employer:

(i) has an effective program for complying with the standard as quickly as is practicable;

(ii) is taking all available steps to safeguard public sector employees against the hazards covered by the standard; and

(iii) is unable to comply with the standard because:

(A) professional or technical personnel needed to implement compliance with the standard are temporarily unavailable;

(B) material or equipment needed to comply with the standard is temporarily unavailable; or

(C) necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the effective date of the standard.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 27, L. 2009.**

50-71-115. Applicability of standards — exceptions. (1) The standards for safety and health and the enforcement rules adopted pursuant to this part apply to all public sector employers in this state and to public sector employees.

(2) The standards and enforcement rules adopted pursuant to this part do not apply to employment by:

(a) private sector employers;

(b) the federal government and its instrumentalities; or

(c) a federally recognized tribal government.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 27, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 240, L. 2021.

50-71-116. Duties of public sector employers and public sector employees. (1) Each public sector employer shall:

(a) furnish a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to public sector employees;

(b) adopt and use practices, means, methods, operations, and processes that are adequate to render the workplace safe; and

(c) take appropriate actions necessary to protect the life, health, and safety of public sector employees.

(2) Each public sector employee shall comply with the safety and health standards, rules, and orders issued pursuant to this part as they apply to the public sector employee's own actions and conduct.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-117. Public sector employer records and reports. (1) Each public sector employer shall maintain records of occupational injuries, illnesses, and deaths as the department may require by rule.

(2) The department may inspect those records or require that the public sector employer submit those records to the department for its review.

(3) Except as otherwise provided by rule, a public sector employer complies with the requirements of this section if the public sector employer completes and submits a first report of injury form to the department or to the public sector employer's worker's compensation insurer within 30 days of the public sector employer becoming aware of an occupational injury, illness, or death suffered by a public sector employee.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-118. Inspections. (1) The department may inspect all workplaces of any public sector employer for the purpose of determining whether the public sector employer is in compliance with the safety and health standards that apply to the employer and the employer's workplaces. A department employee conducting an inspection shall, upon request, present appropriate credentials to the public sector employer. The department shall invite a representative of the public sector employer and a representative of any labor organization that represents employees of the public sector employer who are working at the workplace that is to be inspected to accompany the department employee on the inspection. The labor organization representative must be on paid status while accompanying the department employee on the inspection.

(2) An inspection may be performed:

(a) periodically without prior notice or scheduling;

(b) at the request of the public sector employer;

(c) as the result of a complaint of a violation of a safety or health standard at a public sector employer's workplace;

(d) as part of a department investigation following a report of an occupational injury, illness, or death; or

(e) following the issuance of a citation, after the public sector employer has been given a reasonable opportunity to correct any violation of standards.

(3) A public sector employer may not interfere with a department inspection conducted pursuant to this section.

(4) The department may not unreasonably interfere with the operations of a public sector employer while conducting an inspection. An unscheduled inspection does not constitute unreasonable interference with the public sector employer's operations.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-119. Report of inspection — violations — penalty — appeal process. (1) (a) The department shall make a written report of each inspection conducted under 50-71-118.

(b) The inspection report must include a list of violations of standards that the inspector discovered during the inspection. A violation of a standard by a public sector employee is attributable to the public sector employer for the purposes of this part.

(c) The department shall provide a copy of the inspection report to the public sector employer and to a representative of a labor organization that represents public sector employees at the workplace that was inspected.

(d) The public sector employer shall post a copy of the list of hazards included in the inspection report at one or more visible locations at the workplace that is the subject of the inspection report. The posting must be in a location likely to be seen by employees at that workplace.

(2) The department may issue a written citation to the public sector employer for a violation of a standard. The citation must specify:

(a) the nature of the violation;

(b) the standard that was violated; and

(c) a timeframe within which the public sector employer is required to correct the violation.

(3) (a) The department may impose upon a public sector employer a monetary penalty of not more than $1,000 for each violation for which a citation has been issued.

(b) The department may, in its sole discretion, waive or reduce a penalty under this subsection (3) if the public sector employer timely corrects or cures the violation for which the penalty was imposed.

(c) Monetary penalties collected pursuant to this subsection (3) must be deposited into the occupational safety and health administration fund provided for in 50-71-128.

(4) (a) A public sector employer may appeal a citation or a penalty.

(b) An appeal to the department must be in writing and made within 30 days of the issuance of the citation.

(c) The appeal of a citation or a penalty is conducted as a contested case under Title 2, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 27, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 365, L. 2015.

50-71-120. Stop-work orders. (1) The department may order a public sector employer to immediately and temporarily stop work at a particular workplace if a department inspector who has personally observed the workplace and the hazards that are present determines that:

(a) the conditions or operations that are present at the workplace constitute a violation of a standard established by the department;

(b) the violation poses an immediate and substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death to a public sector employee or a member of the public; and

(c) the public sector employer or a public sector employee who is present at the workplace is unable or unwilling to:

(i) immediately correct the violation; or

(ii) suspend the unsafe operation until the violation is corrected.

(2) The temporary stop-work order must be in writing and specify:

(a) the location of the workplace;

(b) the specific standard that is being violated;

(c) the nature of the risk posed by the violation;

(d) the date and the time that the temporary stop-work order is issued; and

(e) the name, employment address, and work telephone number of the person issuing the temporary stop-work order.

(3) The temporary stop-work order is effective upon communication or delivery to any one of the following:

(a) the public sector employer's onsite supervisor at the workplace;

(b) the public sector employer's manager in charge of workplace operations; or

(c) the chief executive of the public sector employer.

(4) A copy of the temporary stop-work order must be promptly posted by the department at the workplace. A posted temporary stop-work order may not be removed by any person while it is in effect.

(5) A temporary stop-work order is effective for 72 hours unless:

(a) the violation is corrected to the satisfaction of the department; or

(b) the temporary stop-work order is stayed by order of a district court judge following actual notice to the department and the public sector employer.

(6) The violation of a temporary stop-work order or the unauthorized removal of a posted copy of a temporary stop-work order is punishable as a contempt of court.

(7) As used in this section, the term "serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as provided in 45-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-121. Injunctive relief. In addition to any remedies available under this part, the department may institute and maintain in the name of the state an action for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

(1) immediately restrain a public sector employer and public sector employees from engaging in any activity for which the department has issued a temporary stop-work order pursuant to 50-71-120;

(2) enjoin a violation of this part;

(3) enjoin a violation of a rule, including a safety or health standard, adopted under this part; or

(4) require compliance with this part, including compliance with any rules adopted under this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-122. Safety consultation services. The department may, in its sole discretion, provide onsite safety consultation services to public sector employers and private sector employers that request onsite safety consultation services.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-123. Retaliation prohibited. A public sector employer may not retaliate against a public sector employee who:

(1) contacts the department with a complaint of a violation of a standard in the workplace;

(2) cooperates with the department in the performance of an inspection or an investigation; or

(3) testifies or cooperates with the department in any case arising out of:

(a) an inspection;

(b) an investigation;

(c) a citation;

(d) a temporary stop-work order; or

(e) a civil action seeking injunctive relief.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-71-124 through 50-71-127 reserved.

50-71-128. Occupational safety and health administration fund. (1) (a) An occupational safety and health administration fund is established, out of which are to be paid upon lawful appropriation all costs incurred by the department on or after July 1, 2016, in administering Title 50, chapters 71, 72, and 73.

(b) The department shall collect and deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the occupational safety and health administration fund:

(i) all penalties assessed under 50-71-119;

(ii) all expenses recovered under 50-72-106 and 50-73-107;

(iii) all fees paid by an assessment on paid losses, plus administrative fines and interest provided by this section; and

(iv) any grants or funds from private entities or the federal government intended for use by the department in defraying occupational safety and health costs.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "paid losses" has the meaning provided in 39-71-201.

(3) Each plan No. 1 employer, plan No. 2 insurer subject to the provisions of this section, and plan No. 3, the state fund, shall file annually on March 1 in the form and containing the information required by the department a report of paid losses.

(4) Each employer enrolled under compensation plan No. 1, compensation plan No. 2, or compensation plan No. 3, the state fund, shall pay its proportionate share, as determined by the paid losses in the preceding calendar year, of all costs appropriated for the next fiscal year for the purposes of administering Title 50, chapters 71, 72, and 73.

(5) (a) Each employer enrolled under compensation plan No. 1 shall pay an assessment to fund administrative and regulatory costs. The assessment may be up to 2% of the paid losses that were paid in the preceding calendar year by or on behalf of the plan No. 1 employer. Any entity, other than the department, that assumes the obligations of an employer enrolled under compensation plan No. 1 is considered to be the employer for the purposes of this section.

(b) An employer formerly enrolled under compensation plan No. 1 shall pay an assessment to fund administrative and regulatory costs. The assessment may be up to 2% of the paid losses that were paid in the preceding calendar year by or on behalf of the employer for claims arising out of the time when the employer was enrolled under compensation plan No. 1.

(c) By April 30 of each year, the department shall notify employers described in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) of the percentage of the assessment that comprises the compensation plan No. 1 proportionate share of administrative and regulatory costs. The assessment provided for by this subsection (5) must be paid by the employer in:

(i) one installment due on July 1; or

(ii) two equal installments due on July 1 and December 31 of each year.

(d) If an employer fails to timely pay to the department the assessment under this section, the department may impose on the employer an administrative fine of $500 plus interest on the delinquent amount at the annual interest rate of 12%. Administrative fines and interest must be deposited in the occupational safety and health administration fund.

(6) (a) Each employer insured under compensation plan No. 2 or plan No. 3, the state fund, shall pay a premium surcharge to fund administrative and regulatory costs. The premium surcharge must be collected by each plan No. 2 insurer and by plan No. 3, the state fund, from each employer that it insures. The premium surcharge must be stated as a separate cost on an insured employer's policy or on a separate document submitted to the insured employer and must be identified as "occupational safety and health regulatory assessment surcharge". The premium surcharge must be excluded from the definition of premiums for all purposes, including computation of insurance producers' commissions or premium taxes. However, an insurer may cancel a workers' compensation policy for nonpayment of the premium surcharge. When collected, assessments may not constitute an element of loss for the purpose of establishing rates for workers' compensation insurance but, for the purpose of collection, must be treated as a separate cost imposed on insured employers.

(b) (i) The amount to be funded by the premium surcharge may be up to 2% of the paid losses that were paid in the preceding calendar year by or on behalf of all plan No. 2 insurers and may be up to 2% of paid losses for claims arising on or after July 1, 1990, for plan No. 3, the state fund, plus or minus any adjustments as provided by subsection (6)(f).

(ii) The amount determined under subsection (6)(b)(i) must be divided by the total premium paid by all employers enrolled under compensation plan No. 2 or plan No. 3, the state fund, during the preceding calendar year.

(iii) A single premium surcharge rate, applicable to all employers enrolled in compensation plan No. 2 or plan No. 3, the state fund, must be calculated annually by the department by not later than April 30. The resulting rate, expressed as a percentage, is levied against the premium paid by each employer enrolled under compensation plan No. 2 or plan No. 3, the state fund, in the next fiscal year.

(c) On or before April 30 of each year, the department, in consultation with the advisory organization designated pursuant to 33-16-1023, shall notify plan No. 2 insurers and plan No. 3, the state fund, of the premium surcharge percentage to be effective for policies written or renewed annually on and after July 1 of that year.

(d) The premium surcharge must be paid whenever the employer pays a premium to the insurer. Each insurer shall collect the premium surcharge levied against every employer that it insures. Each insurer shall pay to the department all money collected as a premium surcharge within 20 days of the end of the calendar quarter in which the money was collected. If an insurer fails to timely pay to the department the premium surcharge collected under this section, the department may impose on the insurer an administrative fine of $500 plus interest on the delinquent amount at the annual interest rate of 12%. Administrative fines and interest must be deposited in the occupational safety and health administration fund.

(e) If an employer fails to remit to an insurer the total amount due for the premium and premium surcharge, the amount received by the insurer must be applied to the premium surcharge first and the remaining amount applied to the premium due.

(f) The amount actually collected as a premium surcharge in a given year must be compared to the assessment on the paid losses paid in the preceding year. Any excess amount collected must be deducted from the amount to be collected as a premium surcharge in the following year. The amount collected that is less than the assessed amount must be added to the amount to be collected as a premium surcharge in the following year.

(7) By July 1, an insurer under compensation plan No. 2 that paid benefits in the preceding calendar year but that will not collect any premium for coverage in the following fiscal year shall pay an assessment of up to 2% of the paid losses that were paid in the preceding calendar year. The department shall determine and notify the insurer by April 30 of each year of the amount that is due by July 1.

(8) The department shall deposit all funds received pursuant to this section in the state treasury, as provided in this section.

(9) The administration fund must be debited with expenses incurred by the department in the general administration of the provisions of Title 50, chapters 71, 72, and 73, including the salaries of its members, officers, and employees and the travel expenses of the members, officers, and employees, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while on the business of the department either within or without the state.

(10) Disbursements from the administration fund must be made after being approved by the department upon claim for disbursement.

(11) The department may assess and collect the occupational safety and health regulatory assessment surcharge from uninsured employers, as defined in 39-71-501, that fail to properly comply with the coverage requirements of the Workers' Compensation Act. Any amounts collected by the department pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in the occupational safety and health administration fund.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 2015.

Part 2
Duties of Employer and Employee

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

50-71-201. Employer to provide safe workplace and to purchase, furnish, and require use of health and safety items — safe practices. Each employer shall:

(1) furnish a place of employment that is safe for each of the employer's employees;

(2) with the exception of footwear, purchase, furnish, and require the use of health and safety devices, safeguards, protective safety clothing, or other health and safety items, including but not limited to air masks, hardhats, and protective gloves, that may be required by state or federal law, the employer, or the terms of an employment contract unless the terms of a collective bargaining agreement provide otherwise;

(3) adopt and use practices, means, methods, operations, and processes that are reasonably adequate to render the place of employment safe; and

(4) do any other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, health, and safety of the employer's employees.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1710; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1869, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-71-202. Employer to provide and maintain safe place of employment. (1) An employer who is the owner or lessee of any real property in this state shall not construct or cause to be constructed or maintained any place of employment that is unsafe.

(2) Every employer who is the owner of a place of employment or lessee thereof shall repair and maintain the same as to render it safe.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1711.

50-71-203. Removal of or refusal to use health and safety items prohibited. A person may not:

(1) remove, displace, damage, destroy, carry off, or refuse to use any health and safety device, safeguard, protective clothing, or other health and safety item furnished for use by the person's employer;

(2) interfere with the use of any required health and safety device, safeguard, protective clothing, or other health and safety item by any other person;

(3) interfere with the use of a method or process adopted for the protection of an employee in the place of employment; or

(4) fail to do any other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, health, and safety of employees.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 341, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1712; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 298, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1870, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-71-204. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Employee" and "worker" have the meanings provided in 39-71-118.

(2) "Employer" has the meaning provided in 39-71-117.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1946, 41-1709; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 27, L. 2009; Sec. 50-71-102, MCA 2007; redes. 50-71-204 by Sec. 24(2), Ch. 27, L. 2009.

Part 3
Safety Rules and Orders
(Repealed)

50-71-301. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1715; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-302. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1716; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-303. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1714; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-304 through 50-71-310 reserved.

50-71-311. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1727(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-312. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1727(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-313. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1727(part).

50-71-314. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1727(2); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-315. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1728(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-316. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1728(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-317 through 50-71-320 reserved.

50-71-321. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1725; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 1997.

50-71-322. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1726; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-323. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1717; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-71-324. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1719; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-325. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1718(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 37, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-326. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1718(5); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-327. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1720; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-328 through 50-71-330 reserved.

50-71-331. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1722; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-332. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1723; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-333. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1724; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-71-334. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 27, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 341, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 41-1721; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 72
SAFETY IN MINES OTHER THAN COAL MINES

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Chapter Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-72-101. Applicability of chapter. This chapter shall apply to all mines (except coal and lignite) and individuals, owners, lessors, lessees, agents, partnerships, corporations, managers, operators, or employers operating any surface or underground metal or nonmetallic mines in this state. These individuals, owners, lessors, lessees, agents, partnerships, corporations, managers, operators, or employers operating any surface or underground metal or nonmetallic mines (excluding coal and lignite) shall report the same to the department, state the name of the mine, the location of the same, the name of the company, person, or persons owning or operating the same, post-office address, and number of persons employed.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1720, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3425, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3425, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-108; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-72-102. Definitions. (1) "Authorized representative" means mine inspector or any other person employed or authorized by the department to perform any and all duties under this chapter.

(2) "Corporation" means a body formed and authorized by law to act as a single person although constituted by one or more persons and legally endowed with various rights and duties, including the capacity of succession.

(3) "Department" means the department of labor and industry.

(4) "Employee" means every person in this state, including a contractor other than an independent contractor, who is in the service of an employer, as hereinafter defined, in or about any mine, mill, smelter, excavation, or quarry under any appointment or contract of hire, express or implied, oral or written, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed and whether the employment is casual or otherwise.

(5) "Employer" means every person, firm, partnership, corporation, or association, including an independent contractor, who has any person in service in or about any mine, mill, smelter, excavation, or quarry under any appointment or contract of hire, express or implied, oral or written.

(6) "Inspector" means a person employed by the department to inspect metallic and nonmetallic mines, mills, smelters, or quarries as provided in this chapter.

(7) "Mine" means any mine or excavation when clay, metallic ore, mineral, gypsum, or rock is dug or mined, whether on surface or underground, where metal-bearing ores or nonmetallic mineral commodities (exclusive of coal or lignite) are dug or mined whether at the surface or underground.

(8) "Notice" means a written notice, work order, or correction notice issued by an authorized representative of the department, which notice specifies a violation and directs or recommends corrective measures and may specify a definite date or time in which to abate said violation.

(9) "Occupational health" means any of those health conditions that occur as a result of employment in a mine.

(10) "Order" means and includes any decision, rule, regulation, direction, requirement, or standard set, adopted, or issued by the department or any other determination or decision made by the department.

History: En. 50-119 by Sec. 5, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-119; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

50-72-103. Injunctions and other civil relief authorized. A civil action for preventive relief, including but not limited to an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, may be instituted by the department in the district court for the county in which the mine in question is located or in which the mine operator has its principal office whenever an operator:

(1) violates or fails or refuses to comply with any order, rule, or regulation issued under this chapter;

(2) interferes with, hinders, or delays the department or its authorized representatives in carrying out any duties under this chapter;

(3) refuses to admit an authorized representative of the department to any mine which is subject to this chapter;

(4) refuses to permit the inspection or investigation of any mine which is subject to this chapter or an accident, injury, or occupational disease occurring in or connected with such a mine; or

(5) refuses to furnish the department any information or report requested by the department and which may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 72, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3435, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3435, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-118(a); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-72-104. Violations a misdemeanor. (1) Any person who knowingly:

(a) violates or fails or refuses to comply with any order, rule, or regulation issued under this chapter;

(b) interferes with, hinders, or delays the department or its authorized representatives in carrying out any duties under this chapter;

(c) refuses to admit an authorized representative of the department to any mine which is subject to this chapter;

(d) refuses to permit the inspection or investigation of any mine which is subject to this chapter or an accident, injury, or occupational disease occurring in or connected with such a mine; or

(e) refuses to furnish the department any information or report requested by the department and which may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction thereof be punished for each such offense by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $3,000, by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months, or both.

(2) In any instance in which such offense is committed by a corporation, any officer or authorized representative of such corporation who knowingly permits such offense to be committed shall upon conviction be subject to the same fine or imprisonment, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 72, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3435, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3435, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-118(b); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.

50-72-105. Mine safety training — recovery of expenses. (1) The department may conduct mine safety training for mine operators, miners, and other persons working in and around mines.

(2) When providing mine safety training, the department shall schedule the training in a cost-effective manner, while taking into account the needs of training participants and the mining industry.

(3) The department shall provide mine safety training without charge for instruction, but the department may recover reasonable expenses incurred in producing materials distributed to participants.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 2013.**

50-72-106. Safety and industrial health consultation services authorized — recovery of expenses. (1) The department may provide onsite safety and industrial health consultation services to mine operators that request onsite safety and industrial health consultation services.

(2) The department may not charge for the consultation provided by this section, but it may recover from the mine operator the cost of test kits, sampling media, associated laboratory fees, and other reasonable expenses incurred during the consultation.

(3) Expenses recovered pursuant to subsection (2) must be deposited into the occupational safety and health administration fund provided for in 50-71-128.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 60, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 365, L. 2015.

Part 2
Inspections and Investigations

50-72-201. Inspectors. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), as long as the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. 801, et seq., is administered and enforced with respect to metallic and nonmetallic mines in Montana by means that include regular inspections of mines by federal inspectors, the department is not authorized to conduct inspections of those mines. If regular inspections of Montana metallic and nonmetallic mines by federal inspectors in the enforcement of the federal act are discontinued by federal action, the department is authorized to employ an adequate number of qualified metallic and nonmetallic mine inspectors necessary for the enforcement of this chapter and shall prescribe their powers, duties, and responsibilities.

(2) The department is authorized to employ an adequate number of qualified inspectors for sand and gravel mining operations and to prescribe the powers, duties, and responsibilities of those inspectors.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 109, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 1711, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3418, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3418, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-101; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 1997.

50-72-202. Inspections and investigations — when authorized. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), as long as the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 is administered and enforced with respect to metallic and nonmetallic mines in Montana by means that include regular inspection of mines by federal inspectors, the department is not authorized to make inspections in those mines. If inspections of Montana metallic and nonmetallic mines by federal inspectors in the enforcement of the federal act are discontinued by federal action, the department is authorized to make inspections and investigations that are necessary in surface and underground mines that are subject to this chapter:

(a) for the purpose of obtaining, using, and disseminating information relating to health and safety conditions in mines, the causes of accidents involving bodily injury or loss of life, or the causes of occupational diseases originating in surface and underground mines; and

(b) for the purpose of determining whether or not there is compliance with a health and safety standard or order issued under this chapter.

(2) The department is authorized to make inspections and investigations with respect to sand and gravel mining operations for the purposes prescribed under subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(a); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Open mine shaft — criminal penalty, 45-8-113.

50-72-203. Inspectors and investigators to have free access to mines. For the purpose of making any inspection or investigation authorized by this chapter, authorized representatives of the department shall have the right of entry to, upon, or through any mine which is subject to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(b); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-72-204. Debarment of persons from mine when death or serious injury likely. If, upon any inspection of a mine that is subject to this chapter, authorized representatives of the department find that the conditions or practices in the mine are such that a danger exists that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm immediately or before the threat of the danger can be eliminated, the representatives shall determine the extent of the area of the mine throughout which the danger exists. Upon that determination, the representatives of the department shall issue an order requiring the operator of the mine to cause all persons to be withdrawn from and to be barred from entering the area, except the following persons whose presence in the area is necessary to eliminate the danger described in the order:

(1) any person whose presence in the area is necessary in the judgment of the operator of the mine to eliminate the danger described in the order;

(2) any public official whose official duties require the official to enter the area;

(3) any legal or technical consultant or any representative of the employees of the mine who is a person qualified to make mine examinations or is accompanied by a qualified person and whose presence in the area is necessary, in the judgment of the operator of the mine, for the proper investigation of the conditions described in the order.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(c); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1874, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Open mine shaft — criminal penalty, 45-8-113.

50-72-205. Procedure when noncompliance not likely to cause death or serious injury. (1) If, upon any inspection or investigation, an authorized representative finds that there has been a failure to comply with a mandatory standard that is applicable to a mine, but that the failure to comply has not created a danger that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm in the mine immediately or before the threat of the danger can be eliminated, the representative shall determine what would be a reasonable period of time within which the violation should be totally abated and issue a notice fixing a reasonable time for the abatement of the violation.

(2) If, upon the expiration of the period of time as originally fixed or extended, the authorized representative finds that the violation has not been totally abated and if the representative also finds that the period of time should not be further extended, the representative shall also determine the extent of the area that is affected by the violation. After the determination, the department shall make an order requiring the operator of the mine to cause all persons in that area to be withdrawn from and to be barred from entering the area, except for the following persons whose presence in the area is necessary to abate the violation described in the order:

(a) any person whose presence in the area is necessary in the judgment of the operator of the mine to abate the violation described in the order;

(b) any public official whose official duties require the official to enter the area;

(c) any legal or technical consultant or any representative of the employees of the mine who is a person qualified to make examinations or is accompanied by a qualified person and whose presence in the area is necessary, in the judgment of the operator of the mine, for the proper investigation of the conditions described in the order.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(d); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1875, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-72-206. Requirements as to findings, notices, and orders. (1) Findings and orders issued pursuant to this part shall contain a detailed description of the conditions or practices which cause and constitute a situation of imminent danger or a violation of a mandatory standard and a description of the area of the mine throughout which persons must be withdrawn and debarred.

(2) Each finding made and notice or order issued under this part shall be given promptly to the operator of the mine to which it pertains by the person making such finding or order, and all such findings, orders, and notices shall be in writing and shall be signed by the person making them.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(part).**

50-72-207. Notice or order subject to annulment, cancellation, or revision. A notice or order issued by an authorized representative pursuant to this part may be annulled, canceled, or revised by the authorized representative, and in case of a department order, the department may annul, cancel, or revise the order.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-72-208. Order subject to review. The order of the duly authorized representative of the department shall remain in effect but shall immediately be subject to review as provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(g); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-72-209. Right to hearing. (1) An operator notified of an order made pursuant to 50-72-204 may apply to the department for a hearing, revision, or annulment of such order. Whenever the department after such a hearing, upon complaint or upon its own motion, finds that danger throughout the area of such mine as set out in such order existed at the time of making the inspection, it shall make an order denying a revision or annulment; but if it finds that such danger did not exist throughout the area of such mine, it shall make an order consistent with its findings revising or annulling the order under review.

(2) An operator notified of an order made pursuant to 50-72-205 may apply to the department for a hearing or revision of such order. If the department finds that there was no violation, it shall make an order annulling the order under review. If the department finds that there was such a violation, but such violation has since been abated, it shall make an order annulling the order under review. If the department finds that such violation was not totally abated, it shall make an order consistent with its findings.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(h), (i); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-72-210. Actions or decisions under part to be taken as rapidly as possible. In view of the urgent need for prompt decisions of matters submitted to the department under this part, all actions which the department or its authorized representatives are required to take under this part shall be taken as rapidly as practical, consistent with adequate consideration of the issues involved.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 1713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3419, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 50-102(j); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 73
SAFETY IN COAL MINES

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50-73-415. Notice or order subject to amendment, cancellation, or revision.
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Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

50-73-101. Short title. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Coal Mining Code".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3447, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3447, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-401.

50-73-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industry and the state coal mine inspectors employed by the department.

(2) "Excavations" and "workings" mean all parts of a mine excavated or being excavated, including shafts, slopes, tunnels, entries, rooms, and working places, whether abandoned or in use.

(3) "Mine" and "coal mine" mean all parts of the property of a mining plant under one management that contribute, directly or indirectly, to the mining or handling of coal.

(4) "Mine examiner" means a person charged with the examination of the condition of the mine before the miners are permitted to enter the mine and who is commonly known as the "fire boss".

(5) "Mine supervisor" means a person who is charged with the general direction of the underground work or both the underground work and the outside work of a coal mine and who is commonly known and designated as "mine boss".

(6) "Operator", as applied to the entity in control of a mine under this chapter, means the person, firm, or body corporate that is the immediate proprietor as owner or lessee of the mine and, as such, is responsible for the condition and management of the mine.

(7) "Shaft" means any vertical opening through the strata that is or may be used for the purpose of ventilation or escape or for hoisting or lowering of workers or material in connection with the mining of coal.

(8) "Slope" and "drift" mean respectively an incline or horizontal way, opening, or tunnel to a seam of coal to be used for the same purpose as a shaft.

(9) "Written inspection report" means a report prepared by the department identifying safety and health hazards noted during a mine inspection. The term includes any citation or order issued by the department that refers to a violation of safety or health standards at the mine.

History: En. 50-401.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-401.1; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 27, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1876, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-103. Department authorized to adopt rules. The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this chapter and safety standards for all coal mines in this state.

History: En. 50-412.1 by Sec. 8, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-412.1; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-73-104. Injunction and other civil relief authorized. A civil action for preventive relief, including but not limited to an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate order, may be instituted by the department in the district court for the county in which the mine in question is located or in which the mine operator has its principal office when an operator:

(1) violates or fails or refuses to comply with an order, rule, or standard adopted under this chapter;

(2) interferes with, hinders, or delays the department or its authorized representatives in carrying out any duties under this chapter;

(3) refuses to admit an authorized representative of the department to a mine which is subject to this chapter;

(4) refuses to permit the inspection or investigation of a mine or an accident, injury, or occupational disease occurring in or connected with a mine; or

(5) refuses to furnish the department any information or report requested by the department and which may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 50-481 by Sec. 32, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-481(1); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-73-105. Violations a misdemeanor. (1) A person who knowingly:

(a) violates or fails or refuses to comply with an order, rule, or standard adopted under this chapter;

(b) interferes with, hinders, or delays the department or its authorized representatives in carrying out any duties under this chapter;

(c) refuses to admit an authorized representative of the department to a mine;

(d) refuses to permit the inspection or investigation of a mine or an accident, injury, or occupational disease occurring in or connected with a mine; or

(e) refuses to furnish the department any information or report requested by the department and which may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $3,000, by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months, or both.

(2) In an instance in which the offense is committed by a corporation, an officer or authorized representative of the corporation who knowingly permits the offense to be committed is subject to the same fine or imprisonment, or both.

History: En. Sec. 50-481 by Sec. 32, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-481(2); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.

50-73-106. Mine safety training — recovery of expenses. (1) The department may conduct mine safety training for mine operators, miners, and other persons working in and around mines.

(2) When providing mine safety training, the department shall schedule the training in a cost-effective manner, while taking into account the needs of training participants and the mining industry.

(3) The department shall provide mine safety training without charge for instruction, but the department may recover reasonable expenses incurred in producing materials distributed to participants.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 2013.**

50-73-107. Safety and industrial health consultation services authorized — recovery of expenses. (1) The department may provide onsite safety and industrial health consultation services to mine operators that request onsite safety and industrial health consultation services.

(2) The department may not charge for the consultation provided by this section, but it may recover from the mine operator the cost of test kits, sampling media, associated laboratory fees, and other reasonable expenses incurred during the consultation.

(3) Expenses recovered pursuant to subsection (2) must be deposited into the occupational safety and health administration fund provided for in 50-71-128.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 60, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 2015.**

Part 2
Maps, Surveys, and Boundary Lines

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

50-73-201. Operator to make map of coal mine. Every operator of every coal mine in this state shall make or cause to be made an accurate map or plan of the mines, drawn to a scale of not less than 200 feet to 1 inch and as much larger as practicable, on which shall appear the name of the state, county, and township in which the mine is located, the designation of the mine, the name of the company or owner, the certificate of the certified engineer or surveyor as to the accuracy and date of the survey, the north point, and the scale to which the drawing is made.

History: **En. Sec. 37, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3479, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3479, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-428.**

50-73-202. Map of the surface. Every map or plan or, at the option of the operator, a separate map shall show the surface boundary lines contiguous to the workings and pertaining to each mine, all section or quarter-section lines and corners, town lots and streets, the tracts and side tracts of all railroads, the location of all wagon roads, rivers, streams, ponds, buildings, landmarks, and principal objects on the surface within the boundary lines; and in all cases, if of an underground mine, it shall be drawn on a transparency so that it can be laid upon the map of the underground workings and indicate the relative location of the lines and objects on the surface to the excavations of the mine.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3482, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3482, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-431.**

50-73-203. Map of underground working. For the underground working, the map shall show all power distribution and ventilation in mines and all shafts, slopes, tunnels, or other openings to the surface or to the workings of a contiguous mine; all excavations, entries, rooms, and crosscuts; the rise or dip of the seam from the bottom of the shaft, mouth of drift, or slope in either direction to the face of the workings; the location of the fan; the location of the permanent pumps, hauling engines, engine-planes, and fire walls; the location of any standing water which might prove a menace to life or danger to property from flood; and the line of any contiguous surface outcrop of the seam.

History: **En. Sec. 38, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3480, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3480, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 267, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 39, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 50-429.**

50-73-204. Map for every seam. A separate and similar map for all active mining areas drawn to the same scale in all cases shall be made of every seam which shall be worked in any mine, and the maps of all seams shall show all shafts, drifts, tunnels, incline planes, or other passageways connecting them.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3481, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3481, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-430.

50-73-205. Copies of maps for department. The original or true copies of all maps must be kept in the office at the mine, and true copies must also be furnished to the department upon request. The maps delivered to the department become the property of the state. The maps must be kept at the office of the department and are open to inspection by all persons interested in them. An examination may only be made in the presence of a department inspector, and the inspector may not permit any copies of the maps to be made without the written consent of the operator or owner of the property, under penalty of removal from office.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3483, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3483, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-432; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1877, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 51, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

50-73-206. Maps to be updated on basis of semiannual surveys. An extension of the last preceding survey of every mine in active operation shall be made once every 6 months, and the result of the survey, with the date, must be promptly and accurately entered upon the original maps to show all changes in plan or new work in the mine and all extensions of the workings to the most advanced boundary of the workings that have been made since the preceding survey.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-433(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 51, L. 2019.

50-73-207. Annual surveys in mines having only five people on shift. The department shall require an extension of the last preceding survey once every 12 months of every mine in active operation in which five people or less are employed on any one shift.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-433(2); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1878, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-208. Final survey and map update when mine abandoned or worked out. (1) When a coal mine is worked out, is about to be abandoned, or indefinitely closed, the operator shall make or cause to be made a final survey of all available parts of the mine, and the results shall be duly extended on all maps and copies of the mine to show all excavations and the most advanced workings of the mine and their exact relations to the boundary or section lines on the surface.

(2) The department may order a survey to be made of the workings of a mine which is about to be abandoned or of which it has reason to believe the maps are inaccurate whenever in its judgment the safety of the workers, the support of the surface, the conservation of the property, or the safety of an adjoining mine requires it. The survey shall be at the expense of the state.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3485, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3485, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-434; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Coal mine reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4. parts 1 and 2.

50-73-209. Procedure when operator fails to furnish or update map. When the operator of a mine neglects or refuses or fails to respond to the department's request for a copy of a map or an updated map for any cause considered unsatisfactory by the department, the department may make or cause to be made an accurate map or plan of the mine at the expense of the owner or lessee, and the cost may be recovered from the owner, lessee, or operator in the same manner as other debts by suit in the name of the state.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3484, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-433(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 51, L. 2019.

50-73-210. Restrictions as to boundary lines. In no case shall the workings of a coal mine be driven nearer than 50 feet to the boundary line of the coal rights pertaining to the mine, except for the purpose of establishing connecting workings between properties owned by the same person or an underground communication between contiguous mines as provided for elsewhere in rules adopted by the department.

History: En. 50-434.1 by Sec. 16, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-434.1; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Part 3
Duties of Operator and Employees in Mine Operation

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

50-73-301. Operator to report amount of coal produced. Within 15 days after the close of each calendar month, the operator of a coal mine shall report to the department the tons of coal produced each day during the preceding month.

History: En. 50-477 by Sec. 20, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-477(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-302. Hoisting — licensing of hoisting engineers. Hoisting of personnel and licensing of hoisting engineers shall be performed in mines under the provisions of the law and rules and standards adopted by the department.

History: En. 50-479 by Sec. 22, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-479; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Hoisting engines, Title 50, ch. 76.

50-73-303. Nonpermissible internal-combustion engines. Nonpermissible internal-combustion engines or other machinery which gives off noxious fumes may not be permitted underground in any coal mine.

History: En. 50-567.1 by Sec. 17, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-467.1.

50-73-304. Owner to provide and maintain airways. The owner, lessee, or operator of every coal mine shall provide and maintain airways of sufficient dimensions, and in no case shall the area of the aircourse be less than 25 square feet in mines operated in any underground system.

History: En. Sec. 69, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3511, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3511, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-468.

50-73-305. Specific prohibitions and safety precautions. (1) A person may not enter a mine that is generating firedamp in great enough quantities to be detected by a safety lamp until the mine examiners make a report to the department.

(2) A person, unless accompanied by the mine examiner, may not go beyond a danger signal until all standing gas discovered has been removed or diluted and rendered harmless by a current of air. A person ordered to withdraw by the mine supervisor or mine examiner from the mine on account of the interruption of the ventilation may not reenter the mine until given permission to do so by the mine supervisor.

(3) A person other than the mine examiner may not remove any caution board or danger signal placed at the entrance to any working place or at the entrance to any old workings in a mine.

(4) A person may not erase or change a mark of reference or monument made in connection with a measurement, change marks or dates on any caution board, erase or change the dates at room or entry face when made by the mine examiner, take for the person's use a life check not issued to the person under rules adopted by the department, change the checks on cars, wrongfully check a car, or do any act with intent to defraud.

(5) A person may not take anything containing fire into an underground mine, except as provided for in rules adopted by the department.

(6) A person may not place refuse in or obstruct an airway or breakthrough used as an airway. A worker or other person may not damage or alter a water gauge, barometer, aircourse, brattice equipment, machinery, or livestock, obstruct or throw open any airway, handle or disturb any part of the machinery of the hoisting engine of a mine, open a door of a mine and

neglect to close it, endanger the miners or those working in the mine, disobey an order given in pursuance of law, or do a willful act endangering the lives or health of persons working there or the security of a mine or machinery.

History: En. 50-476 by Sec. 19, Ch. 267, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 39, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 50-476; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1879, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-306. Operator to give notice of happening of certain occurrences. Immediate notice must be conveyed to the department by the operator interested:

(1) when an accident occurs whereby a person receives serious or fatal injury;

(2) when work is commenced to sink a shaft, slope, or drift either for hoisting or escape purposes;

(3) when there is intent to abandon a mine or to reopen an abandoned mine;

(4) upon the appearance of a large body of firedamp in a mine, whether accompanied by explosion or not, and upon the occurrence of a serious fire within the mine or on the surface around the mine;

(5) when the workings of a mine are approaching near an abandoned mine believed to contain accumulation of water or gas; or

(6) upon the accidental closing or intended abandonment of a regularly established passageway to an escape outlet.

History: En. 50-477 by Sec. 20, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-477(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Coal mine reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4, parts 1 and 2.

50-73-307. Operator to make and preserve record of all injuries. An operator of a coal mine or the operator's agent shall make and preserve for the information of the department, upon uniform blanks furnished by the department, a record of all injuries sustained by any employees on the premises.

History: En. 50-478 by Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-478(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1880, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-308. Operator to notify miners' organization of mine fatality. The operator shall, upon being notified of a fatality in a coal mine, relay that information promptly to the district office of the miners' organization.

History: En. 50-478 by Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-478(part).

Part 4
Inspections, Investigations, and Compliance

Part Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.
Silicosis benefits, Title 39, ch. 73.

50-73-401. Coal mine inspector. (1) The department shall employ an adequate number of qualified coal mine inspectors for the enforcement of this chapter and shall prescribe their duties.

(2) A person is not eligible to be a state coal mine inspector unless the person is a citizen of the United States, is a resident of this state, and has been actually employed in coal mining for 5 years before the appointment.

(3) A state coal mine inspector may not act as the agent for a corporation, superintendent, or manager of a mine and may not be in the employ of mining companies or interested in any way in coal mining operations, either as owner, lessee, or otherwise.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3448, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3448, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Sec. 50-402, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3449, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3449, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Sec. 50-403, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3451, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3451, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Sec. 50-405, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 50-402, 50-403, 50-405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 639, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1881, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-402. Department authorized to enter and inspect coal mines. (1) The department may enter, inspect, and examine any coal mine or any shaft, drift, or slope in the process of sinking for the purpose of mining coal in this state and the workings and the machinery belonging to the coal mine at all reasonable times either by day or night. The department's entry, inspection, or examination under this subsection may not impede or obstruct the workings of the mine.

(2) The department may at any time perform inspections and investigations that the department considers necessary in surface and underground mines subject to this chapter:

(a) to obtain, use, and disseminate information relating to health and safety conditions in the mines, the causes of accidents involving bodily injury or loss of life, or the causes of occupational diseases originating in the mine; and

(b) to determine compliance with a health and safety standard or order issued under this chapter.

(3) The department may enter, upon or through, any mine subject to this chapter to conduct an inspection or investigation.

(4) The department shall prepare a written report for every inspection or investigation conducted under 50-73-406 and this section, noting the time and the material circumstances of the inspection or investigation.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Sec. 50-404, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 50-480, 50-480.1 by Secs. 23, 24, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Secs. 50-480, 50-480.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(1), 50-480, 50-480.1; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-73-403. Department to give notice of inspection to be made on complaint. If the department has in its possession any complaint to the effect that this chapter is being violated, it shall notify the employer and the employees that it is about to make an inspection.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-404. Right of employees' representative and mine owner to accompany department during inspection. The employees' representative has the right to accompany the department in making an official mine inspection. The owner or operator has the right to personally accompany the department while inspecting the owner's or operator's property or to designate someone to accompany the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1882, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-405. Mine owner to furnish means necessary for inspection. The owner, lessee, operator, superintendent, or mining boss of the mine is required to furnish the means necessary for the entry, inspection, examination, inquiry, and exit.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part).

50-73-406. Minimum inspection intervals. The department shall carefully examine all the coal mines in operation in this state at least semiannually and more often if necessary to see that every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of all workers that may be working in the coal mine.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 27, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 60, L. 2013.

50-73-407. Department to give notice of violations and penalties therefor. The department shall immediately notify the owner, lessee, superintendent, or mining boss of the discovery of any violation of the mining laws of this state and the penalty thereby imposed for those violations.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-408. Procedure when notice of violations disregarded. (1) If the notice provided for in 50-73-407 is disregarded, the department may stop immediately the working and operation of any mine or any part thereof where any dangerous or unlawful conditions are found.

(2) However, where conditions justify the department in so doing, it may grant a reasonable length of time for making repairs or for putting the mine in proper condition, but the number of workers employed in the mine or in the section of the mine involved shall be limited to those necessary to correct the unsafe condition.

(3) Where any stops or cessation of work is enforced, the department may thereafter allow the mine or part of a mine to be reopened when the dangerous or unlawful conditions existing there are removed or remedied so that they no longer exist.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3450, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-404(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-73-409. Operator to post statement of conditions. (1) The operator shall post the department's written inspection report at each mine visited and inspected by the department.

(2) The written inspection report, signed by the department inspector, must include the date of inspection and be posted in one or more conspicuous locations and remain posted until replaced by a subsequent inspection report. For the purposes of this subsection, a conspicuous location is one where the written inspection report:

(a) is likely to be seen by the mine workers; and

(b) is available to be read by any interested mine worker.

(3) The operator shall promptly provide a copy of the written inspection report to each exclusive representative of mine workers who are or may be affected by the conditions in the written inspection report.

(4) The operator shall also post a notice at the landing used by the workers stating what number of workers may be permitted to ride on the cage or car at one time.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 120, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 3453, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3453, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 38, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-407; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 27, L. 2009.

50-73-410. Department inspection upon advisement of accident, injury, or fatality. (1) When advised by an operator of any accident in a coal mine involving loss of life or serious personal injury, the department shall, if it considers it necessary from the facts reported and in all cases of loss of life, immediately have an inspector go to the scene of the accident within 48 hours of notification.

(2) The department may also make any original or supplementary investigation that it considers necessary as to the nature and cause of an accident and shall make a record of the circumstances and of the result of the investigations for its files.

(3) The inspection team must include a department coal mine inspector, the employer or the employer's designee, and a representative of the employees.

History: En. 50-478 by Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-478(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1883, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-411. Miners' organization authorized to investigate fatal accident. The representative of the miners' organization or some person delegated by the representative may enter any coal mine for the purpose of investigating the causes of a fatal accident.

History: En. 50-478 by Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-478(part); amd. Sec. 1884, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-412. Debarment of persons from mine when death or serious injury likely. If, upon an inspection of a mine, the department finds that the conditions or practices in the mine create a danger that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm immediately or before the danger can be eliminated, the department shall determine the extent of the area of the mine throughout which the danger exists and order the operator of the mine to have all persons withdrawn from and excluded from entering the area, except the persons whose presence in the area is necessary to eliminate the danger described in the order as follows:

(1) a person whose presence in the area is necessary in the judgment of the operator of the mine to eliminate the danger;

(2) a public official whose official duties require the official to enter the area;

(3) a legal or technical consultant or a representative of the employees of the mine who is a person qualified to make mine examinations or is accompanied by a qualified person and whose presence in the area is necessary, in the judgment of the operator of the mine, for the proper investigation of the conditions in the area.

History: En. 50-480.2 by Sec. 25, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.2; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1885, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-413. Procedure when noncompliance not likely to cause death or serious injury. If upon an inspection or investigation the department finds that there has been a failure to comply with a mandatory standard that is applicable to the mine, but that the failure to comply has not created a danger that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm in the mine immediately or before the threat of the danger can be eliminated, it shall determine what would be a reasonable period of time within which the violation should be totally abated and issue a notice fixing a reasonable time for the abatement of the violation. If, upon the expiration of the period of time as originally fixed or extended, the department finds that the violation has not been totally abated and if it also finds that the period of time should not be further extended, it shall also find the extent of the area that is affected by the violation. The department shall order the operator of the mine to have all persons in the area to be withdrawn from and excluded from entering the area, excepting the following persons whose presence in the area is necessary to abate the violation described in the order:

(1) a person whose presence in the area is necessary in the judgment of the operator of the mine to abate the violation;

(2) a public official whose official duties require the official to enter the area;

(3) a legal or technical consultant or a representative of the employees of the mine who is a person qualified to make examinations or is accompanied by a qualified person and whose presence in the area is necessary, in the judgment of the operator of the mine, for the proper investigation of the conditions in the area.

History: En. 50-480.3 by Sec. 26, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.3; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1886, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-73-414. Requirements as to findings, notices, and orders. (1) Findings and orders issued under this chapter shall contain a detailed description of the conditions or practices which cause and constitute a situation of imminent danger or a violation of a mandatory standard and a description of the area of the mine throughout which persons must be withdrawn and excluded.

(2) Each finding made and notice or order issued by the department shall be given promptly to the operator of the mine to which it pertains, and all the findings, orders, and notices shall be in writing and shall be signed by the department inspector making them.

History: En. 50-484.4 by Sec. 27, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.4(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-415. Notice or order subject to amendment, cancellation, or revision. A notice or order issued by the department under this chapter may be amended, canceled, or revised by the department.

History: En. 50-484.4 by Sec. 27, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.4(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-416. Order subject to review. The order of the department shall remain in effect but shall immediately be subject to review as provided in this chapter.

History: En. 50-480.5 by Sec. 28, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.5; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-73-417. Right to hearing. (1) An operator notified of an order made under 50-73-412 may apply to the department for a hearing, revision, or amendment of the order. When the department after a hearing upon complaint or upon its own motion finds that danger throughout the area of the mine as set out in the order existed at the time of making the inspection, it shall make an order denying a revision or amendment. However, if it finds that the danger did not exist throughout the area of the mine, it shall make an order consistent with its findings, revising or amending the order under review.

(2) An operator notified of an order made under 50-73-413, as amended, may apply to the department for a hearing or revision of the order. If the department finds that there was no violation, it shall make an order rescinding the order under review. If the department finds that there was a violation but the violation has since been abated, it shall make an order rescinding the order under review. If the department finds that the violation was not totally abated, it shall make an order consistent with its findings.

History: (1)En. 50-480.6 by Sec. 29, Ch. 267, L. 1974; Sec. 50-480.6, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 50-480.7 by Sec. 30, Ch. 267, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 39, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 50-480.7, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.6, 50-480.7; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

50-73-418. Actions or decisions under chapter to be taken as rapidly as possible. In view of the urgent need for prompt decisions of matters submitted to the department under this chapter, all actions which the department is required to take under this chapter shall be taken as rapidly as practicable, consistent with adequate consideration of the issues involved.

History: En. 50-480.8 by Sec. 31, Ch. 267, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 50-480.8; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 74
BOILERS AND STEAM ENGINES

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Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Municipal power to regulate steam boiler location, 7-21-4204.
Municipal power to inspect and regulate boilers, 7-33-4204.
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

50-74-101. Definition — department to formulate rules. (1) As used in this chapter, the term "department" means the department of labor and industry.

(2) The department shall adopt definitions and rules for the safe construction, installation, operation, inspection, and repair of equipment covered by this chapter. The definitions and rules must follow generally accepted nationwide engineering standards as published by the American society of mechanical engineers.

History: En. Sec. 550, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1639, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1501(1); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-74-102. Boilers to conform to rules. No boiler which does not conform to the rules adopted by the department governing new construction and installation shall be installed and operated in this state after 12 months from the date upon which the first rules under this chapter pertaining to new construction and installation shall have become effective unless the boiler is of special design or construction, is not covered by the rules, or is in any way inconsistent with such rules, in which case a special installation and operating permit may be granted by the department at its discretion.

History: En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919, re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(3); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-103. Boilers exempted. (1) This chapter does not apply to boilers under federal control.

(2) The provisions of this chapter requiring inspections, inspection fees, and certificates do not apply to:

(a) steam heating boilers operated at not over 15 pounds per square inch gauge pressure in private residences or apartments of six or less families or to hot water heating or supply boilers operated at not over 50 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and temperatures not over 250 degrees F when in private residences or apartments of six or less families; and

(b) boilers constructed or maintained only as a hobby for exhibition, educational, or historical purposes and not for commercial use if the boilers have an inside diameter of 12 inches or less or a grate area of 2 square feet or less and are equipped with a safety valve, a water level indicator, and a pressure gauge.

(3) Persons operating any of the engines or boilers exempted from the operation of this chapter may not be required to procure a license from the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1515(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 2019.

50-74-104. Dinkey engines to be classed as traction engines. Locomotives, commonly known as dinkey engines, used in operating logging or mining railroads or any similar work where such locomotives are owned, leased, or operated by any individual, company, or corporation and are used in the business of such individual, company, or corporation and not for general commercial purposes shall be classed as traction engines and be subject to inspection as are other traction engines, and the persons operating or firing such dinkey locomotives shall be required to hold traction licenses.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1515(part).

50-74-105. Purchaser to notify department of purchase. (1) Any person purchasing any boiler, whether traction or stationary, not exempted by the provisions of 50-74-103 shall, within 10 days after such purchase, report the fact of such purchase to the department and shall notify the department as to where the boiler will be installed and operated.

(2) Any person failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1515(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-106. Certificate and license to be conspicuously displayed. All certificates of inspection, operating certificates, and engineer's licenses must be displayed in a conspicuous place in the boiler room.

History: En. Sec. 562, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1651, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1511(part).

50-74-107. Wrongful certification or granting of a license a misdemeanor. Any inspector or assistant inspector who willfully certifies regarding any boilers or their attachments or grants a license to any person to act as engineer contrary to the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 562, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1651, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1511(part).

50-74-108. Tampering with safety valve a misdemeanor. A renter, user, or owner of a boiler or a person who tampers with the safety valve to allow the boiler to carry greater pressure than is allowed by the inspection certificate is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 555, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1644, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1504(2).

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

Part 2
Inspections

Part Cross-References

Municipal power to regulate steam boiler location, 7-21-4204.
Municipal power to inspect and regulate boilers, 7-33-4204.
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

50-74-201. State boiler inspectors. The department shall appoint state inspectors of boilers and shall prescribe their duties and term of office and fix their compensation.

History: En. Sec. 550, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1639, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1501(2); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-202. Special boiler inspectors. (1) In addition to the state boiler inspectors, the department shall issue to the inspectors of boiler insurance companies authorized to do business in the state commissions, certificates, or other recognition as special boiler inspectors and may accept the inspection reports of such special inspectors as equivalent to those of the state inspectors.

(2) Each such special inspector shall hold a certificate as boiler inspector issued by the national board of boiler and pressure vessels inspectors.

(3) Such special inspectors shall receive no salary or expenses from the state, nor shall the state collect inspection fees for inspections made by such special inspectors.

History: En. Sec. 550, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1639, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2712, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1501(3); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-203. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 102, L. 1889; amd. Sec. 551, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1640, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2713, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1502; amd. Sec. 1887, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-74-204. Joint or separate inspection authorized — inspectors to certify inspection under seal. In making an inspection of the boilers and machinery herein provided for, the inspectors may act jointly or separately, but the inspector or assistant inspector making such inspection must in all cases certify the same under the seal of the inspector of boilers and safety.

History: En. Sec. 562, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1651, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2722, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1511(part).

50-74-205. Purchaser to receive certificate of inspection. (1) Any person purchasing any boiler, whether traction or stationary, shall be entitled to receive from the seller the certificates of inspection issued on such boiler.

(2) Any person failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1515(part).

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

50-74-206. Boiler to be inspected prior to use — duty of notification. (1) The inspector of boilers must inspect all boilers and steam generators before the same are used.

(2) All persons who bring into this state for operation in this state any boiler or boilers must notify the department stating the number and kind of boilers and where they are to be located and operated in this state and must secure from the department a certificate of inspection before boilers are placed in operation except in the case of new boilers, which must be inspected within 90 days after they are put in use.

History: En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-207. Boiler opened for repair subject to inspection — duty of notification. Any owner, operator, or user who opens a boiler or boilers between inspections for repair or other reasons must notify the department of such action, and such boiler or boilers shall at the discretion of the department be inspected by the state or special boiler inspector before the boiler or boilers may be placed back in operation.

History: En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-208. Penalty for operation without certificate or failure to give notice. Any person failing to give notice to the department as provided in 50-74-206 or 50-74-207 or who operates such boilers without a certificate from the department shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 for each offense, by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 30 or more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.

50-74-209. Required inspection intervals — failure to comply with safety standards — inspections through other states. (1) (a) All manually fired boilers and all boilers and banks of boilers rated with a total input of 400,000 Btu's an hour or greater must be inspected at least once each year.

(b) All automatically fired boilers rated with an input of less than 400,000 Btu's an hour must be inspected at least once every 2 years, except that an automatically fired boiler in a school, day-care center, hospital, rest home, retirement center, or place of assembly with a capacity for more than 100 persons must be inspected once a year.

(c) Boilers exempt under the provisions of 50-74-103 do not require inspections.

(d) Upon written application, longer inspection intervals may be authorized by the department.

(2) In addition to the inspection required by subsection (1), it is the duty of each inspector to examine at proper times, when in the inspector's opinion an examination is necessary, all boilers that have become unsafe from any cause and to notify the owner or the person using the boilers of any defect and what repairs are necessary to render them safe.

(3) If a boiler is found, upon inspection, to violate safety standards set forth in rules referred to in 50-74-101, the department shall order the owner of the boiler to comply with the standards. An owner who negligently or knowingly fails to comply with an order is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $100, imprisonment for not more than 60 days in a county detention center, or both.

(4) The department may accept valid inspections for traction engines that have been performed by other states.

History: (1)En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1503, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 557, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1646, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2717, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2717, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 69-1506, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part), 69-1506; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 499, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 322, L. 2019.

50-74-210. Duty to permit inspection. It is the duty of the owners, engineers, or managers of steam or water boilers to allow the inspector free access to the same.

History: En. Sec. 558, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1647, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1507(part).

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-74-211. Inspector to notify department of refused access. In case the owner, operators, or manager of any boiler is notified by the inspector to have the boiler ready for inspection on a certain day and fails to have such boiler ready for inspection at such time, the inspector shall notify the department to gain access to the boiler.

History: En. Sec. 558, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1647, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1507(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-212. Payment of costs resulting from refused access. The owner, engineer, or manager of any boiler who has refused access resulting in a department order must pay all transportation and hotel expenses of the inspector who makes the inspection directed by such order in addition to the inspection fee provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 558, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1647, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1507(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-213. Failure to comply with department directed access a misdemeanor. Any person failing to immediately comply with department directed access to the boiler shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500, by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 2 months or more than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 558, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1647, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1507(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 50-72-104.

50-74-214. Engineer to assist in inspection. It is the duty of the engineer operating any boiler or boilers to assist the inspectors in their examination of the boilers and point out any defects known to the engineer in the boilers or machinery under the engineer's charge. If an engineer does not comply with this section, the engineer's license must be revoked or suspended.

History: En. Sec. 558, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1647, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2718, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1507(part); amd. Sec. 1888, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-74-215. Interior and exterior examination of boiler. (1) The inspector must be satisfied by a thorough interior and exterior examination that the:

(a) boilers are well-made and of good and suitable material;

(b) openings for the passage of water and steam, respectively, and all pipes and tubes exposed to heat are of the proper dimensions and free from obstructions;

(c) flues are circular in shape;

(d) fire line of the furnace is at least 2 inches below prescribed minimum waterline of the boilers;

(e) arrangements for delivering the feed water are such that the boilers cannot be injured by the feed water; and

(f) boilers and the steam connections may be safely employed without danger to life.

(2) A boiler or steam pipe or any of the connections to a boiler or steam pipe that are made in whole or in part of bad material or are unsafe from any cause may not be approved. Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the use of any boiler or steam generator, that is not constructed of riveted iron or steel plates, when the inspector has satisfactory evidence that the boiler or steam generator is equal in strength to and as safe from explosion as boilers of the best quality, constructed of iron or steel plates.

History: (1)En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1503, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 556, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1645, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2716, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2716, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 225, L. 1971; Sec. 69-1505, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part), 69-1505; amd. Sec. 1889, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-74-216. Hydrostatic pressure test. When necessary, the boiler inspector shall subject boilers, except those exempted by 50-74-103, to hydrostatic pressure, which hydrostatic pressure shall not exceed 150% of the steam pressure allowed on the boilers, providing there are no such leaks on such boilers which prevent the inspector from applying such hydrostatic pressure.

History: En. Sec. 554, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2714, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1503(part).

50-74-217. Other inspection requirements. The inspector must be satisfied that:

(1) the safety valves are of suitable relieving capacity ratings, sufficient in number and area, and properly arranged and properly adjusted so as not to allow a greater pressure in a boiler than the amount prescribed by the inspection certificate;

(2) there are a sufficient number of gauge cocks properly inserted to indicate the amount of water and suitable gauges that will correctly record the pressure of steam; and

(3) adequate and certain provisions for an ample supply of water to feed the boiler at all times and suitable means for blowing out are provided so as to thoroughly remove mud and sediment from all parts of the boiler when it is under pressure of steam.

History: En. Sec. 555, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1644, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1504(1); amd. Sec. 1890, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-74-218. Safe working pressure. (1) If a boiler is constructed with lap horizontal seams on the boiler, dome, or drum, a factor of 4½ must be used in determining the safe working pressure allowed on the boiler.

(2) If a boiler is constructed with butt strap horizontal seams, a factor of four may be used in determining the safe working pressure.

(3) If a boiler is a historical boiler, as defined by the department by rule, on stayed sections, a safety factor of four must be used in determining the safe working pressure.

(4) If a boiler rests on a side wall on lugs, is hung by I-beams, or is in any way set up so that the weight of the boiler is pulling against the horizontal seam of rivets, a factor of five must be used in determining the safe working pressure.

(5) If the horizontal lap seams of a boiler are exposed to the fire, a factor of five must be used in determining the safe working pressure.

(6) On new stay bolts, 7,500 pounds pressure per square inch is allowed. If the stay bolts are corroded or defective, the inspector must determine the pressure to be allowed on the stay bolts.

(7) On braces made of solid material, 8,000 pounds pressure per square inch is allowed. On welded braces or braces with only one crowfoot, 6,000 pounds pressure per square inch is allowed.

(8) Cast iron may not be used in the construction or reinforcements of a boiler if the pressure allowed on the boiler is more than 100 pounds per square inch.

History: En. Sec. 555, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1644, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2715, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1504(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 2011.

50-74-219. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1652, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1512(1); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 385, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 499, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 68, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2019.

Part 3
Licenses

50-74-301. License required to operate boilers and steam engines. All boilers and steam engines, except as exempted in 50-74-103, come under the provisions of this chapter, and persons operating same are required to hold the proper grade of license.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1655, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 2726, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1515(part).

50-74-302. General requirements for licensure. No person may be granted a license to operate steam or water boilers and steam machinery under the provisions of this chapter who has not met the qualifications for licensing and been found to be competent by examination to perform the duties of an engineer.

History: En. Sec. 559, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1648, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2719, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2719, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1508(part).

50-74-303. Engineer's license classifications. (1) Engineers entrusted with the operation, care, and management of steam or water boilers and steam machinery, as specified in 50-74-302, are divided into six classes, including first-class engineers, second-class engineers, third-class engineers, agricultural-class engineers, low-pressure engineers, and limited low-pressure engineers.

(2) Licenses for the operation of steam or water boilers and steam machinery are divided into six classifications in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) First-class engineers are licensed to operate all classes, pressures, and temperatures of steam and water boilers and steam-driven machinery with the exception of traction and hoisting engines.

(b) Second-class engineers are licensed to operate steam boilers operating not in excess of 250 pounds per square inch gauge saturated steam pressure, water boilers operating not in excess of 375 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and 450 degrees F temperature, and steam-driven machinery not to exceed 100 horsepower per unit, with the exception of traction and hoisting engines.

(c) Third-class engineers are licensed to operate steam boilers operating not in excess of 150 pounds per square inch gauge saturated steam pressure or not in excess of 150 horsepower per hour and water boilers operating not in excess of 160 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and 350 degrees F temperature.

(d) Agricultural-class engineers are licensed to operate steam boilers that operate not in excess of 150 pounds per square inch saturated steam pressure and that:

(i) are not operated for more than 6 months of the year; and

(ii) are not operated for purposes other than the harvesting or processing of agricultural products.

(e) Low-pressure engineers are licensed to operate steam boilers operating not in excess of 15 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and water boilers operating not in excess of 50 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and 250 degrees F temperature.

(f) Limited low-pressure engineers are licensed to operate hot water heating boilers not in excess of 30 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and 210 degrees F temperature and hot water supply boilers not in excess of 160 pounds per square inch gauge pressure and 210 degrees F temperature.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(1), (2); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Licensure of engineers, Title 37, ch. 67.

50-74-304. Requirements for engineer's license. Each applicant for an engineer's license must be physically and mentally capable of performing the required duties and must meet the following minimum requirements for the class of engineer's license for which application is being made:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (8), an applicant for a limited low-pressure engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older, must have 2 months' full-time experience in the operation of a boiler in this classification under an engineer who holds a valid limited low-pressure or higher license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler in this classification by the department.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7), an applicant for a low-pressure engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older, must have at least 3 months' full-time experience in the operation of a boiler in this classification under an engineer who holds a valid low-pressure or higher license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler in this classification by the department.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (7), an applicant for an agricultural-class engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler in this classification by the department.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (7), an applicant for a third-class engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older, must have at least 6 months' full-time experience in the operation of a boiler in this classification under an engineer holding a valid third-class or higher license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler in this classification by the department.

(5) An applicant for a second-class engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older and:

(a) must have at least 2 years' full-time experience in the operation of a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification under an engineer holding a valid second-class or first-class license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification by the department; or

(b) must hold a valid third-class engineer's license, must have at least 1 year's full-time experience in the operation of a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification under an engineer holding a valid second-class or first-class license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification by the department.

(6) An applicant for a first-class engineer's license must be 18 years of age or older and:

(a) must have at least 3 years' full-time experience in the operation of a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification under an engineer holding a valid first-class license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification by the department;

(b) must hold a valid second-class engineer's license, must have at least 1 year's full-time experience in the operation of a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification under an engineer holding a valid first-class license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification by the department; or

(c) must hold a valid third-class engineer's license, must have at least 2 year's full-time experience in the operation of a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification under an engineer holding a valid first-class license, is required to successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department, and must be found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in this classification by the department.

(7) As an alternative to the requirements of subsections (2) through (4), an applicant who is 18 years of age or older may apply for and be issued a license for any of the three classes of licenses provided for in subsections (2) through (4) if:

(a) the applicant completes a training course acceptable to the department that is specific to the class of boiler license sought by the applicant and successfully passes a written examination administered by the department that is specific to the class of boiler license sought by the applicant; and

(b) an engineer with a license at least equal to the class of boiler license sought by the applicant informs the department that the applicant has worked with the type of boiler for which a license is sought under the engineer's supervision for a minimum of 40 hours and that the applicant is competent to operate a boiler of the class for which licensure is sought by the applicant.

(8) As an alternative to the requirements of subsection (1), an applicant who is 18 years of age or older may apply for and be issued a limited low-pressure license provided for in subsection (1) if:

(a) the applicant completes a 6-hour training course acceptable to the department that is specific to a limited low-pressure license sought by the applicant; and

(b) an engineer with a license at least equal to the class of license sought by the applicant informs the department that the applicant has worked with the type of boiler for which a license is sought under the engineer's supervision for a minimum of 8 hours and that the applicant is competent to operate a boiler of the class for which licensure is sought by the applicant.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(3); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 2021.

50-74-305. Exceptions to requirements for engineer's license. Allowable exceptions or variances to the minimum requirements set out in 50-74-304 are as follows:

(1) An applicant for an engineer's license in any classification who holds a valid license in that classification from another state having licensing requirements equal to or exceeding the minimum requirements set out in 50-74-304, who successfully passes a written examination prescribed by the department, and who is found competent to operate a boiler and steam-driven machinery in that classification by the department must be granted a license in that classification.

(2) Operating experience in a classification accumulated in the United States military services or the merchant marine service satisfactory to the department may be accepted in lieu of the operating experience required for licensing of engineers in each of the license classifications.

(3) An applicant who has training in the operation of steam or water boilers and steam machinery and who has been certified as having satisfactorily completed a prescribed training course from a department-approved institution or training program in the classification for which the applicant is applying may, pursuant to department rule, be credited with experience toward a first-, second-, or third-class or low-pressure engineer's license.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(4); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-74-306. Traction licenses — application without examination from other states. (1) The licenses named in 50-74-303 do not entitle the holder to operate a traction engine.

(2) A person who is entrusted with the care and management of traction engines or boilers on wheels is required to pass an examination testing the person's competency to operate that class of machinery and procure a traction license.

(3) A person who is entrusted with the care, management, and operation of steam locomotives not addressed by federal regulations is required to pass an examination testing the person's competency to operate that class of machinery and procure a traction license.

(4) The department may issue a license to an individual holding a valid license from another state upon application without examination if the requirements of 50-74-307(2) are met.

(5) A traction license does not entitle its holder to operate any other class of steam machinery.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 322, L. 2019.

50-74-307. Requirements for traction licenses. (1) An applicant for a traction engineer's license:

(a) must be 18 years of age or older;

(b) shall attend a steam school approved by the department by rule and may apply steam school hours to the hour requirement established in subsection (3);

(c) must have at least 50 hours total experience in the operation of steam traction engines; and

(d) shall successfully pass a written examination prescribed by the department.

(2) The department may issue a license to an individual holding a valid license from another state under 50-74-306 if the individual is from a state that has standards greater than or equal to the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 160, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 322, L. 2019.

50-74-308. Waiver of experience requirement for traction licenses. The department, at its discretion, may waive the experience requirement for operators of traction engines which are maintained and operated as a hobby for the restoration and show purposes of antique equipment.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1649, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2720, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1509(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989.

50-74-309. Repealed. Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1652, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1512(2); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-74-310. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 196, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1652, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1512(3).

50-74-311. Waiting period before reexamination permitted. In case of the failure of any applicant to successfully pass an examination, 45 days must elapse before the applicant may again be examined for license.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1652, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2723, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 77, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1512(4); amd. Sec. 1891, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-74-312. Review of license rejection — waiting period. (1) An applicant for a license under the provisions of this chapter whose application has been rejected may, within 45 days after the date of the rejection, set forth in writing any arguments opposing the rejection and request a review by the department. The request must be addressed to the department and must be signed by the applicant.

(2) Within 2 days after receiving the request, the department shall notify the applicant in writing that on a certain day, not less than 5 days or more than 30 days after receipt of the written request, the department shall review and evaluate the application and any arguments opposing the rejection of the license application.

(3) The applicant may appear in person at the review. At least 2 days before the day set for the review, the applicant may designate in writing to the department the name of an engineer holding a valid license of equal or higher grade than the one applied for, and the engineer may testify on behalf of the applicant at the review.

(4) After the review, if the department determines that the applicant is entitled to the license, the department shall issue the license. If the department affirms the decision to not issue the license, the applicant may reapply to take the license examination, as provided in 50-74-311, and may not take the examination within 45 days of the final decision to not issue the license.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 564, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1653, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2724, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2724, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 182, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1513, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 565, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1654, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 2725, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2725, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 182, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1514, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1513, 69-1514; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 196, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

50-74-313. Repealed. Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 32, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 1656, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 30, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2727, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 225, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1516; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 492, L. 1997.

50-74-314. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 561, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1650, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2721, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1510; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-74-315. Unlawful to operate boiler or steam engine without license. (1) It is unlawful for any person in this state to operate a stationary boiler or steam engine or any boiler or steam engine other than engines and boilers exempted by the provisions of 50-74-103 without a license granted under the provisions of this chapter. The owner, renter, or user of any engine or boiler is equally liable for the violation of this section.

(2) A person who operates a boiler or steam engine without first obtaining a license is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined no less than $50 or more than $100 or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed 60 days, or both.

History: (1)En. Sec. 568, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1657, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 182, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1517, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 559, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1648, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2719, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2719, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 187, L. 1977; Sec. 69-1508, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1508(part), 69-1517(part).

50-74-316. Unlawful to employ unlicensed operator. It shall be unlawful, except as stated in 50-74-317, for any person, firm, or corporation to employ any person not duly licensed as an engineer within the meaning of this chapter to run or operate any of the boilers or engines subject to the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 568, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1657, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1517(part).

50-74-317. When unlicensed person may operate. (1) In case of accident, sickness, or any unforeseen event that prevents a licensed engineer, employed by an owner, renter, or user of an engine or boiler, from performing required duties, the owner, renter, or user may for 15 days employ any person 18 years of age or older whom the owner, renter, or user considers competent to run the engine or boiler.

(2) Although the person employed may not be the holder of an engineer's license, the person must have reasonable qualifications acceptable to the department.

(3) A person employing an unlicensed engineer shall immediately notify the department.

(4) An owner, renter, or user of boilers or steam machinery may not employ unlicensed engineers for more than 15 days in any 1 calendar year.

History: En. Sec. 568, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1657, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 30, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2728, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 182, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1517(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-74-318. Qualifications of boiler inspectors — fees for inspections. (1) A person employed by the department to enter premises and inspect boilers or machinery subject to this chapter must:

(a) have 5 years of actual experience in the operation or inspection of boilers or steam-driven equipment; and

(b) hold or possess the necessary qualifications to obtain either a stationary engineer's license or a commission issued by the national board of boiler and pressure vessel inspectors.

(2) The department shall establish a schedule of fees and may collect fees for the inspection of boilers prior to the issuance of a boiler operating certificate. The fees must be commensurate with the cost of the inspections and with appropriations for other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2021.

50-74-319 reserved.

50-74-320. Examinations — fees — third parties. (1) The department shall administer the engineer examinations at least once every 3 months at places within the state as determined by the department.

(2) The department shall determine the fees to be charged an applicant for each examination and reexamination. The fees must be commensurate with costs.

(3) The department may use a third party to provide examination and grading services.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 196, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 75
CONSOLIDATION OF BOILER, MINE, AND COAL MINE INSPECTORS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

50-75-101. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3034, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3034, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-901.

50-75-102. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 92, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3035, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3035, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-902.

50-75-103. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 92, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3036, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3036, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-903.

50-75-104. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 92, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3037, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3037, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-904(part).

50-75-105. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 92, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3037, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3037, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-904(part); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

50-75-106. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 92, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3038, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3038, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-905.

50-75-107. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 96, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 92, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 3039, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3039, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 50-906(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1979.

CHAPTER 76
HOISTING ENGINES

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-76-101. When chapter not to apply.
50-76-102. Hoisting engine license required.
50-76-103. Crane and hoist license required.
50-76-104. Application, examination, and fee for license.
50-76-105. Repealed.
50-76-106. Repealed.
50-76-107. Scope of license.
50-76-108. Renewal of application by rejected candidate.
50-76-109. Violation of chapter — misdemeanor.
50-76-110. Crane inspector — qualifications — inspections.
50-76-111. Definitions.
50-76-112. Rulemaking authority.
50-76-113. Recognition of national certification.
50-76-114. Failure of licensee to have possession of license or proof of license while operating equipment.

Chapter Cross-References
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-76-101. When chapter not to apply. (1) This chapter does not apply to hoisting engines, air compressors, or elevators under federal control or to operating elevators in completed private or public buildings.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to forklifts and front-end and rear-end loaders or line trucks and bucket trucks.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "line trucks" are hoisting and digging devices mounted on a standard manufacturer's truck chassis with an all-weather cab capable of transporting a driver and two or more crew members. Line trucks are equipped with a hydraulically operated, telescoping boom that uses a nonmetallic cable for hoisting. Line trucks may be equipped with a rotary digging device and are capable of attaining maximum allowable highway speeds. "Bucket trucks" are personnel-lifting devices designed to lift personnel to work stations above ground. Bucket trucks are not designed for the purposes intended for a line truck.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2732, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2732, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1603, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2730, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2730,

R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1975; Sec. 69-1601, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1601(5), 69-1603(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1892, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-76-102. Hoisting engine license required. (1) (a) It is unlawful for a person to operate any hoisting engine driven by any power when used in lowering or hoisting personnel or material in industrial operations or on construction projects without first obtaining a license from the department.

(b) In emergencies under 50-74-317 relating to the employment of unlicensed engineers, the provisions of that section apply to the operation of the engines and machinery named in this section.

(2) First-class hoisting engineers must be licensed to operate hoisting engines driven by any power and unlimited horsepower used in the lowering or hoisting of personnel or material in industrial operations or on construction projects.

(3) Second-class hoisting engineers must be licensed to operate hoisting engines driven by any power and not in excess of 100 brake horsepower used in the lowering or hoisting of personnel or material in industrial operations or on construction projects.

(4) The provisions of this section do not apply to hoists and cranes defined in 50-76-103.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2730, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2730, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1601(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-76-103. Crane and hoist license required. (1) (a) It is unlawful for a person to operate any crane and hoist equipment, when used in hoisting or lowering personnel or material, that has a manufacturer's load chart rating of 6 tons or more or to operate a tower crane of any capacity without first obtaining a license from the department. The crane and hoist equipment includes overhead trolley and gantry cranes used only in construction and excludes equipment with excavation attachments or log loading equipment when in use.

(b) In emergencies, 50-74-317 applies to the operation of the equipment named in this section.

(2) Licensing is as follows:

(a) Licensed first-class crane and hoist engineers may operate any hoisting equipment in industrial or construction operations.

(b) (i) An applicant for a first-class crane and hoist engineer's license must be at least 18 years of age and, except as provided in 50-76-113:

(A) may not have less than 1 year of experience operating equipment requiring a second-class crane and hoist engineer's license or shall demonstrate equivalent competency by examination; and

(B) shall pass a written test prescribed by the department.

(ii) A biennial physical exam is required of all first-class licensees.

(c) Licensed second-class crane and hoist engineers may operate crane and hoist equipment with a manufacturer's load chart rating of between 6 tons and 17.5 tons or a tower crane of any capacity.

(d) (i) An applicant for a second-class crane and hoist engineer's license must be at least 18 years of age and, and except as provided in 50-76-113:

(A) may not have less than 1 year of experience in actual operation of crane and hoist equipment covered by this section or shall demonstrate equivalent competency by examination; and

(B) shall pass a written examination prescribed by the department.

(ii) A biennial physical exam is required of all second-class licensees.

(e) Licensed third-class crane and hoist engineers may move all truck cranes driven by any power and of any capacity. This license requirement also applies to truck crane oilers who move truck cranes.

(f) An applicant for a third-class crane and hoist engineer's license is required to successfully pass a written test prescribed by the department and must be at least 18 years of age before receiving a license.

(3) The department shall reexamine each licensee every 5 years during the anniversary month of the issuance of the license if the licensee has not worked at the trade for 5 years.

History: En. 69-1601.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1601.1; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2005.

50-76-104. Application, examination, and fee for license. (1) Application for licenses must be made to the department and submitted with the appropriate fee that is set commensurate with the cost of administering this program, to be deposited in the state special revenue fund for use by the department.

(2) The department shall determine by rule the fees to be charged an applicant for each examination and reexamination. The fees must be commensurate with costs.

(3) The department may use a third party to perform examination and grading services.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1602(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 189, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 196, L. 2003.

50-76-105. Repealed. Sec. 127, Ch. 467, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1602(part); amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 492, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

50-76-106. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 104, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2731, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 182, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1602(part); amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 514, L. 1995.

50-76-107. Scope of license. A license granted under this chapter entitles the holder to operate any of the machinery named in 50-76-102 and 50-76-103, and the license shall specify that machinery, but no license issued shall authorize or qualify the person to whom issued to operate a boiler, steam engine, steam-driven machinery, or air compressor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 104, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 2732, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2732, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1603(1).

50-76-108. Renewal of application by rejected candidate. A person who has applied for a license under this chapter and has been rejected may renew the application for a license within the time and in the manner prescribed in 50-74-312.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 104, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 2735, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1606; amd. Sec. 1893, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-76-109. Violation of chapter — misdemeanor. (1) A person who operates a crane, hoist, or other equipment described in 50-76-102 or 50-76-103 for which a crane and hoist engineer's license is required without first obtaining a license, and every owner, employer, or manager of the crane, hoist, or other equipment who permits an unlicensed person to operate the crane, hoist, or other equipment is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A person who knowingly operates or an owner, employer, or manager who knowingly allows the operation of a crane, hoist, or other equipment in violation of the rules adopted pursuant to 50-76-110(2) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 104, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 2736, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2736, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 225, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 456, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1607; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 93, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.
Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

50-76-110. Crane inspector — qualifications — inspections. (1) The department shall employ at least one crane inspector. A crane inspector must have a minimum of 3 years of experience as a licensed third-class crane and hoist engineer.

(2) The department may adopt by rule applicable operating and safety standards established by the American national standards institute.

(3) A crane inspector may require that a crane, hoist, or other equipment subject to this chapter that is not being operated in compliance with an operating or safety standard adopted

by rule pursuant to subsection (2) be declared to be out of service and that the crane, hoist, or other equipment not be operated until the noncompliance is cured.

History: **En. 69-1608 by Sec. 6, Ch. 456, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1608; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 514, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 191, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 93, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 2015.**

50-76-111. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Crane" means a machine with a hoisting mechanism that is integral to the machine and that is used for lifting and lowering a load and for moving it horizontally.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(3) "Gantry crane" and "trolley crane" are synonymous and mean a crane similar to an overhead crane except that the bridge for carrying the trolley or trolleys is rigidly supported on two or more legs running on fixed rails or another type of runway.

(4) "Hoist" means a power-driven apparatus capable of lifting and lowering loads and not designed to facilitate horizontal movements.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 192, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

50-76-112. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department may adopt rules consistent with the purposes of this chapter for the administration of the following classes of crane and hoist operators:

(a) crane and hoist oiler;
(b) crane and hoist hoisting;
(c) crane and hoist hydraulic;
(d) crane gantry and trolley;
(e) hoists;
(f) mine hoists;
(g) hydraulic and boom trucks;
(h) tower crane; and
(i) air tugger winches, other than air tugger winches on equipment used to drill oil, natural gas, or water wells.

(2) In adopting rules pertaining to inspections and safety requirements, the department may consult with engineering authorities and organizations concerned with safety codes, rules, and regulations governing the operation, testing, maintenance, and inspection of cranes, hoists, and other equipment subject to the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 41, Ch. 481, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 93, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-76-113. Recognition of national certification. (1) The department shall issue a first-class or second-class crane and hoist engineer's license to any individual who is certified by the national commission for the certification of crane operators or any other similar certifying organization that has been approved by the department as having qualifications that are at least substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state for licensing as a first-class or second-class crane and hoist engineer.

(2) An individual licensed under this section is subject to all requirements of this chapter pertaining to licensed first-class or second-class crane and hoist engineers, including license fees, biennial physical exams, and 5-year reexaminations.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 100, L. 2011.**

50-76-114. Failure of licensee to have possession of license or proof of license while operating equipment. (1) A person may not operate any equipment covered by licensure under this chapter unless the person has possession of the license or proof of licensure at the time the person is operating the equipment.

(2) The department shall issue a citation to any person violating the provisions of subsection (1). The department may direct an employee of the department to conduct onsite inspections to determine compliance with subsection (1) and to issue citations for violations of subsection (1).

(3) The citation must include:

(a) the time and date on which the citation is issued;

(b) the name, address, and mailing address of the person receiving the citation;

(c) information explaining the procedure for paying the fine or for providing the department with proof of licensure;

(d) a statement that the amount of the fine is $100 and that the person receiving the citation has 30 days from the date of the citation to pay the fine or to submit proof of licensure to the department; and

(e) a statement that failure to pay the fine or to provide proof of licensure may result in revocation of the license of the person receiving the citation.

(4) The department shall waive the fine for any person who provides proof of licensure within the 30-day period provided in subsection (3)(d).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 93, L. 2005.

CHAPTER 77
CONSTRUCTION SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Part 1 — General Provisions

50-77-101. Scaffolds — definition — safety practices — liability.
50-77-102. Temporary floors for protection of workers.
50-77-103. Planking above scaffolds.
50-77-104. Guarding of stairways and other openings.
50-77-105. Temporary toilets.
50-77-106. Repealed.
50-77-107. Penalty for violation.

Chapter Cross-References

Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

Occupational safety and health, Title 50, ch. 71.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-77-101. Scaffolds — definition — safety practices — liability. (1) As used in this part, "scaffold" or "scaffolding" means a temporarily elevated platform and its supporting structure that is used on a construction site to support a person, material, or both. The term includes a ladder or other equipment that is the exclusive route of access to the scaffold but does not include any other ladder or other mobile construction equipment.

(2) Employers and employees shall follow safety practices commonly recognized in the construction industry as well as applicable state and federal occupational safety laws.

(3) Subject to the comparative negligence principles provided in Title 27, chapter 1, part 7, a contractor, subcontractor, or builder who uses or constructs a scaffold on a construction site is liable for damages sustained by any person who uses the scaffold, except a fellow employee or immediate employer, when the damages are caused by negligence of the contractor, subcontractor, or builder in the use or construction of the scaffold.

(4) If a person dies from an injury caused by the negligent use or construction of a scaffold, the right of action survives and may be prosecuted and maintained by the decedent's heirs or personal representatives.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2672, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2672, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 187, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 1995; (3), (4)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 404, L. 1995.

50-77-102. Temporary floors for protection of workers. (1) It is the duty of an owner, person, or corporation that has the direct and immediate supervision or control of the construction or remodeling of any building having more than three framed floors, whether some or all of the floors are above or below the established street grade, to provide and lay upon the upper side of the joists or girders, or both, of the first floor below the riveters and structural steel setters a plank floor, which must be laid to form a good substantial temporary floor for the protection of employees and all persons engaged above or below or on the temporary floor in the building.

(2) If the permanent floor is in place on the floor required to be planked, a temporary protective floor may not be required.

(3) If the floor or permanent floor of the second floor, any other floor above the second floor, or the roof is being placed previous to the permanent floor immediately below the floor that is being arched or planked, a good substantial temporary floor must be laid on the joists and girders of the next lower floor.

(4) For the purpose of this section, the lowest framed floor in the building is considered the first floor.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2673, R.C.M. 1921; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1402; amd. Sec. 1894, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-77-103. Planking above scaffolds. In buildings more than three stories high where persons are working on a scaffold or scaffolds on the outside of such buildings, such persons shall be protected by well secured planking set over the heads of such persons for the full width of the scaffolding on which they are working if another story or stories are being raised above such persons during the time they are working on such outside scaffold or scaffolding.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2674, R.C.M. 1921; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1403.**

50-77-104. Guarding of stairways and other openings. It shall be the duty of all owners, contractors, builders, or persons having the direct and immediate control or supervision of any buildings in course of erection, which shall be more than 30 feet high, to see that all stairways, elevator openings, flues, and all other openings in the floors shall be covered or properly protected.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2675, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2675, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1404(part).**

50-77-105. Temporary toilets. Wherever such building or buildings over three stories high, other than a residence, are being erected in any city or town, temporary toilets in or convenient to such building shall be maintained for the convenience of the employees.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2675, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2675, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1404(part).**

50-77-106. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1999.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2676, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2676, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1405(part).**

50-77-107. Penalty for violation. Any person violating any of the provisions of the foregoing sections shall be fined not less than $100 or more than $200 for each offense.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 107, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 2676, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2676, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 69-1405(part).**

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporations, 45-2-311.

CHAPTER 78
EMPLOYEE AND COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INFORMATION ACT

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Occupational safety and health, Title 50, ch. 71.

Part 1
General

50-78-101. Short title. This chapter may be known and cited as the "Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

50-78-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Chemical manufacturer" means an employer in codes 31 through 33, as defined in the North American Industry Classification System Manual, with a workplace where chemicals are produced for use or distribution.

(2) "Chemical name" means the scientific designation of a chemical in accordance with the nomenclature system developed by the international union of pure and applied chemistry or the chemical abstracts service rules of nomenclature or a name that will clearly identify the chemical for the purpose of conducting a hazard evaluation.

(3) "Common name" means any designation or identification, such as code name, code number, trade name, brand name, or generic name, used to identify a chemical other than by its chemical name.

(4) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 35.

(5) "Designated representative" means:

(a) the individual or organization to whom an employee gives written authorization to exercise the employee's rights under this chapter; or

(b) a recognized or certified collective bargaining agent who is automatically a designated representative without regard to written employee authorization.

(6) "Distributor" means a business, other than a chemical manufacturer, that supplies hazardous chemicals to other distributors or to employers.

(7) "Employee" means a person who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the workplace under normal operating conditions or possible emergencies.

(8) "Employer" means a person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, governmental agency, or other entity that is engaged in business or providing services and that employs workers.

(9) "Exposure" means ingestion, inhalation, absorption, or other contact in the workplace with a hazardous chemical and includes potential, accidental, or possible exposure.

(10) "Hazardous chemical" means, except as provided in 50-78-103:

(a) any element, chemical compound, or mixture of elements or compounds that is a physical hazard or health hazard, as defined by subsection (c) of the OSHA standard, and that has been identified as such by the federal occupational safety and health administration or the manufacturer and has been filed with the federal occupational safety and health administration;

(b) any hazardous chemical, as defined by subsection (d)(3) of the OSHA standard; or

(c) any emitter of ionizing radiation.

(11) "Label" means any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on or affixed to containers of hazardous chemicals.

(12) "Local fire chief" means the chief of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, or the chief's designee.

(13) "Manufacturing employer" means an employer with a workplace classified in codes 31 through 33 of the North American Industry Classification System who manufactures, uses, or stores a hazardous chemical.

(14) "Material safety data sheet" means a document prepared in accordance with the requirements of the OSHA standard and containing chemical hazard and safe handling information.

(15) "Nonmanufacturing employer" means an employer with a workplace classified in a North American Industry Classification System code other than 31 through 33.

(16) "OSHA standard" means the hazard communication standard issued by the federal occupational safety and health administration, codified under 29 CFR 1910.1200.

(17) "Trade secret" means a confidential formula, pattern, process, device, or information, including chemical name or other unique chemical identifier, that is used in an employer's business and that gives the employer an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors.

(18) "Work area" means a room or defined space in a workplace where hazardous chemicals are produced, used, or stored and where employees are present.

(19) "Workplace" means an establishment at one geographical location containing one or more work areas.

(20) "Workplace chemical list" means the list of hazardous chemicals developed under subsection (e)(1)(i) of the OSHA standard or under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 145, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 332, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 449, L. 2007.**

50-78-103. Applicability — exemptions. (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

(a) any consumer product intended for personal consumption or use by an employee;

(b) any retail food sale establishment or other retail trade establishment, exclusive of processing and repair areas;

(c) a food, drug, or cosmetic as defined in the Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Title 50, chapter 31;

(d) a source of ionizing radiation that is an exempt or generally licensed material or device, as defined and described in rules adopted under 50-79-202 and implementing 50-79-104 and 50-79-202;

(e) the radiological properties of any source, byproduct, or special nuclear material as defined in sections 11(z), 11(aa), and 11(e)(1) of the federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954; or

(f) sealed containers of hazardous chemicals:

(i) during transportation or while in storage at transportation terminals, so long as existing labels are not removed or defaced and the employer complies with state and federal regulations relating to the transportation of hazardous chemicals; or

(ii) at a facility of a distributor, as long as existing labels are not removed or defaced and the employer distributes material safety data sheets as required under 50-78-203(1).

(2) Employers operating the following workplaces are in compliance with this chapter if they retain and make accessible to employees and, when applicable, to students, all material safety data sheets received or, if no material safety data sheet is received for a hazardous chemical, any other information received on its hazards and safe handling and if the provisions of 50-78-206, 50-78-301(2) through (4), and 50-78-305 are met:

(a) a teaching, research, or testing laboratory, including any associated storeroom;

(b) a clinical laboratory or health care facility as defined in 50-5-101;

(c) a pharmacy as defined in 37-7-101;

(d) a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102; or

(e) an office of a physician, dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, optometrist, or veterinarian licensed under Title 37.

(3) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to any hazardous chemical subject to the packaging and labeling requirements imposed under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. 136, et seq., except that a chemical manufacturer producing the hazardous chemicals must comply with all provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 536, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 93, L. 1997.**

50-78-104. Relationship to OSHA standard. Any employer complying with the provisions of the OSHA standard, whether or not that employer is regulated by the OSHA standard, is exempt from the provisions of this chapter, except for 50-78-204 and 50-78-301.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 536, L. 1987.**

Part 2
Notice Required

50-78-201. Notice to employees. Employers shall post adequate notice at locations where notices are normally posted informing employees about their rights under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

50-78-202. Workplace chemical list. (1) Each employer shall compile and maintain a workplace chemical list. Except as provided in 50-78-205, the workplace chemical list must contain the chemical name of each hazardous chemical in the workplace, cross-referenced to any generally used common name. For chemical mixtures, the chemical name of each hazardous constituent indicated on the material safety data sheet must be provided in parentheses along with the chemical name. The chemical abstracts service registry number, if available from the material safety data sheet, must accompany all chemical names on the workplace chemical list.

(2) The workplace chemical list must indicate the work area in which each hazardous chemical is normally stored or used.

(3) The workplace chemical list may be prepared for the workplace as a whole or for each work area, provided the list is readily available to employees and their designated representatives.

(4) New or newly assigned employees must be made aware of the workplace chemical list before working with or in a work area containing hazardous chemicals.

(5) The workplace chemical list must be updated as necessary but not less than annually.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, Sp. L. June 1986.

50-78-203. Material safety data sheets. (1) Each chemical manufacturer or distributor shall provide a manufacturing or nonmanufacturing employer with the appropriate material safety data sheet upon delivery of a hazardous chemical.

(2) Each employer shall maintain the most current material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical in the workplace. If a material safety data sheet has not been provided by the chemical manufacturer or distributor at the time a hazardous chemical is delivered to the employer, the employer shall request one in writing within 5 working days. Each employer shall maintain a copy of any correspondence sent or received by the employer in an effort to obtain a material safety data sheet for a hazardous chemical when none was provided by the chemical manufacturer or distributor.

(3) Material safety data sheets must be provided by the employer to any employee or designated representative upon request for review or copying.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

50-78-204. Employee rights. (1) An employee who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals must be informed of the potential or actual exposure and must be provided access to the workplace chemical list and to the material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical. An employer who does not provide an employee with information on a hazardous chemical within 5 working days of the request for information, as required by this chapter, may not require the employee to work with the hazardous chemical until the information is made available.

(2) Each employee must receive training from the employer, as provided in 50-78-305 or in the OSHA standard, on the hazards of workplace chemicals and on protective measures for handling those chemicals.

(3) Each employee required to work with a hazardous chemical must be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.

(4) An employer may not discharge, cause to be discharged, discipline, discriminate against, or initiate any adverse personnel action against any employee who exercises the employee's rights, testifies, or assists others in exercising their rights or duties under this chapter.

(5) A waiver by an employee of the benefits, rights, or requirements of this chapter is against public policy and is void. An employer's request or requirement that an employee waive any rights under this chapter as a condition of employment is a violation of this chapter.

(6) A designated representative may act on behalf of an employee in pursuing any right or enforcement remedy under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1895, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

What is unlawful, 28-2-701.
Employment relationship, Title 39, ch. 2.

50-78-205. Trade secret confidentiality. (1) An employer who believes that the name of a hazardous chemical is a trade secret may withhold the chemical name from the material safety data sheet and workplace chemical list only if:

(a) a material safety data sheet, coded to an identifying notation on each container of the hazardous chemical, is available in the work area where the hazardous chemical is present;

(b) the material safety data sheet discloses the properties and effects of the hazardous chemical;

(c) the specific chemical identity is provided to a treating physician or nurse in the event of a medical emergency, as provided for in subsection (i)(2) of the OSHA standard;

(d) the specific chemical identity is provided in nonemergency situations to a health professional providing medical or other occupational health services to an exposed employee, as provided for in subsections (i)(3) through (5) of the OSHA standard; and

(e) the employer claims that the information is a trade secret and that claim can be supported.

(2) If a person believes that disclosing certain trade information on a material safety data sheet will reveal a trade secret, a trade secret claim may be filed with the department, which shall use this procedure to determine the validity of the trade secret claim:

(a) The department shall give notice by certified mail to the person making the claim to submit trade secret substantiation information within 30 days after receipt of such notice. Failure to supply the substantiation information constitutes a waiver of the trade secret claim.

(b) The department has the responsibility to determine the validity of the trade secret claim and shall consider the trade secret substantiation information as confidential.

(c) If the department determines the trade secret claim is not valid, the department shall so notify by certified mail the person making the claim for trade secret protection, stating the basis for the decision. The person making the claim has 30 days after notification by the department to initiate judicial review in the district court of Lewis and Clark County and obtain a preliminary injunction or other court order to prevent disclosure of the trade secret.

(d) The unauthorized use or disclosure of trade secret information submitted under this section is a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.
Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

50-78-206. Labels. (1) An employer or distributor may not remove or deface any existing label on a container of a hazardous chemical, except that the chemical name may be concealed under trade secret protection as provided in 50-78-205.

(2) Any portable container intended for an immediate transfer of a hazardous chemical is not required to be labeled.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

Part 3
Information and Education

50-78-301. Emergency and community information. (1) An employer shall comply with the provisions of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 or be subject to the enforcement provisions thereof.

(2) The local fire chief must be permitted onsite inspection of hazardous chemicals in any workplace, including workplaces under the control of a state agency, for the purposes of planning fire department activities in case of an emergency and reviewing compliance with this chapter. For a workplace that employs fire safety personnel, the local fire chief shall consult with the responsible fire safety official to clarify respective roles and response procedures in the event of an emergency.

(3) As a result of an inspection, the local fire chief may note and report for possible action by the county attorney or other appropriate law enforcement official any violation by an employer of a provision of this chapter or any other law pertaining to hazardous chemicals or fire safety.

(4) The local fire chief shall consult at least annually on safety and emergency considerations with each person responsible for the operation of any research, educational, or testing laboratory workplace. The consultation may result in recommendations or, under the provisions of 50-62-102, orders by the fire chief to be implemented by the laboratory operator to enhance public safety, to reduce the likelihood of emergency incidents, or to improve emergency response in the event of an accident. The person responsible for the operation of the laboratory shall contact the local fire chief at any time there is a significant change in the location or nature of the hazardous chemicals in the workplace, initiation of any new and potentially dangerous method of processing or reacting hazardous chemicals, or any other operational change affecting emergency response considerations.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 536, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Role and duties of County Clerk, 7-4-2611.
Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.
Duties of chief and assistant chief of fire department, 7-33-4104.

50-78-302 through 50-78-304 reserved.

50-78-305. Employee education program. (1) Each employer shall provide, at least annually, an education and training program for all of the employer's employees using or handling hazardous chemicals. Additional instruction must be provided whenever the potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals is altered or whenever new and significant information is received by the employer concerning the hazards of a chemical. New or newly assigned employees must be provided training before working with or in a work area containing a hazardous chemical.

(2) The programs must provide instruction in:

(a) interpreting labels and material safety data sheets and the relationship between these two methods of hazard communication;

(b) the location and acute and chronic effects of hazardous chemicals used by the employees; and

(c) the safe handling, protective equipment, first-aid treatment, and cleanup and disposal procedures for hazardous chemicals.

(3) The employer shall keep a record of the dates of training sessions given to employees and the names of the employees attending.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1896, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

50-78-306. Departmental information program. (1) The department may develop and provide to any employer a suitable form of notice to inform employees of their rights under this chapter.

(2) The department may develop an education and training program to assist employers in complying with the provisions of 50-78-204.

(3) The department may develop and distribute a supply of informational leaflets on employer duties, employee rights, the effects of hazardous chemicals, and any other topic related to hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

(4) The department may contract with the Montana university system or any other public or private organization to develop and implement an information program on hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

Part 4
Enforcement and Penalties

50-78-401. No effect on other duties or liabilities. The provision of information to an employee does not in any way affect the liability of an employer with regard to the health and safety of an employee or other person exposed to hazardous chemicals, nor does it affect the employer's responsibility to take any action to prevent the occurrence of occupational disease or accident as required under any other provision of law. The provision of information to an employee does not affect any other duty of a manufacturer, producer, or formulator to warn ultimate users of a hazardous chemical under any other provision of law.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 641, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

50-78-402. Complaints, investigation, and penalties. (1) An employee in a workplace covered by the OSHA standard who believes the employer is not complying with the provisions of the OSHA standard may report the alleged violation to the federal occupational safety and health administration.

(2) An employee who believes an employer is not complying with the provisions of this chapter may submit a written complaint to the local health officer, as defined and described in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1.

(3) If the local health officer chooses to act on the complaint, the officer shall:

(a) within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint, investigate the complaint and, in the event of an apparent violation, seek a corrective response from the employer;

(b) within 10 working days of receipt of a complaint, complete a report that details the findings of the investigation and the response of the employer;

(c) upon completion of the report, submit copies to the employee requesting the investigation, the county attorney, and the employer; and

(d) if the evidence suggests that the employer has violated the provisions of this chapter and the health officer does not receive a corrective response within 10 days of notifying the employer of the violation, file a complaint in the appropriate court or request appropriate action by the county attorney to prosecute the alleged violation.

(4) An employee may submit a written complaint to the county attorney.

(5) The county attorney shall investigate any complaint received and, if a violation appears to have occurred and the county attorney does not receive a corrective response within 10 days of notifying the employer of the violation, initiate appropriate court proceedings to prosecute the violation.

(6) A person found to be knowingly in violation of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day of violation is a separate offense.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 641, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1897, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney relating to state matters, 7-4-2716.

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

CHAPTER 79
NUCLEAR REGULATION

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Chapter Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.
Disposal of hazardous wastes — regulation, Title 75, ch. 10, part 4.
Disposal of wastes — mining operations, 82-4-231.
Western Interstate Nuclear Compact — state nuclear policy, Title 90, ch. 5, part 2.

Part 1
General Provisions

50-79-101. Policy. It is the policy of the state of Montana, in furtherance of its responsibility to protect the public health and safety, to:

(1) institute and maintain a regulatory program for sources of ionizing radiation so as to provide, for compatibility with the standards and regulatory programs of the federal government, a single effective system of regulation within the state and a system consistent insofar as possible with those of other states; and

(2) institute and maintain a program to permit development and utilization of sources of ionizing radiation for peaceful purposes consistent with the health and safety of the public.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5801; Sec. 75-3-101, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-101 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

50-79-102. Purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a program:

(1) of effective regulation of sources of ionizing radiation for the protection of the occupational and public health and safety;

(2) to promote an orderly regulatory pattern within the state, among the states, and between the federal government and the state and facilitate intergovernmental cooperation with respect to use and regulation of sources of ionizing radiation to the end that duplication of regulation may be minimized;

(3) to establish procedures for assumption and performance of certain regulatory responsibilities with respect to byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials; and

(4) to permit maximum utilization of sources of ionizing radiation consistent with the health and safety of the public.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5802; Sec. 75-3-102, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-102 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Consumer Product Safety Act of 1975, Title 50, ch. 30.

50-79-103. Definitions. The definitions used in this chapter are intended to be consistent with those used in 10 CFR 1-171 and 49 CFR 173.401 through 173.478, subpart I. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Byproduct material" means:

(a) any radioactive material (except special nuclear material) yielded in, or made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident to, the process of producing or using special nuclear material; and

(b) the tailings or wastes produced by the extraction or concentration of uranium or thorium from any ore processed primarily for its source material content.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(3) "Disposal" means burial in soil, release through the sanitary sewerage system, incineration, or permanent long-term storage with no intention of or provision for subsequent removal.

(4) "General license" means a license effective pursuant to rules promulgated by the department without the filing of an application to transfer, acquire, own, possess, or use quantities of or devices or equipment using quantities of byproduct, source, special nuclear materials, or other radioactive material occurring naturally or produced artificially. General licenses are effective without the filing of applications with the department or the issuing of licensing documents to the user.

(5) "Ionizing radiation" means gamma rays and x-rays, alpha and beta particles, high-speed electrons, neutrons, protons, and other nuclear particles, but not sound or radio waves or visible, infrared, or ultraviolet light.

(6) "Large quantity radioactive material" means highway route controlled quantity as defined in 49 CFR 173.403.

(7) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency, political subdivision or agency of a political subdivision, and any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing, other than the United States nuclear regulatory commission, any successor, or federal agencies licensed by the nuclear regulatory commission.

(8) "Registration" means the registering with the department by the legal owner, user, or authorized representative of sources of ionizing radiation in the manner prescribed by rule.

(9) "Source material" means uranium, thorium, or any other material that the department or the United States nuclear regulatory commission declares by order to be source material or ores containing one or more of the foregoing materials in a concentration that the department or the nuclear regulatory commission declares by order to be source material after the nuclear regulatory commission has determined the material in that concentration to be source material.

(10) "Special nuclear material" means plutonium, uranium 233, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and any other material that the department or the United States nuclear regulatory commission or any successor declares by order to be special nuclear material or any material artificially enriched by any of the foregoing but does not include source material.

(11) "Specific license" means a license issued after application to use, manufacture, produce, transfer, receive, acquire, own, or possess quantities of or devices or equipment using quantities of byproduct, special nuclear materials, or other radioactive material occurring naturally or produced artificially.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5803; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, I.M. No. 84, approved Nov. 4, 1980; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 265, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 73, L. 1997; Sec. 75-3-103, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-103 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-104. Exemptions — sources, diagnosis, and therapy. (1) This chapter does not apply to the following sources or conditions:

(a) electrical equipment that is not intended primarily to produce radiation and that, by nature of design, does not produce radiation at the point of nearest approach at a weekly rate higher than one-tenth the appropriate limit for any critical organ exposed. The production testing or production servicing of such equipment is not exempt.

(b) radiation machines during process of manufacture or in storage or transit;

(c) any radioactive material while being transported in conformity with regulations adopted by the nuclear regulatory commission or any successor thereto or the interstate commerce commission and specifically applicable to the transportation of such radioactive materials.

(2) No exemptions under this section are granted for those quantities or types of activities that do not comply with the established rules promulgated by the nuclear regulatory commission or by any successor thereto.

(3) The provisions of this chapter may not be construed to limit the kind or amount of radiation that may be intentionally applied to a person for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes by or under the direction of a licensed practitioner of the healing arts.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 108, L. 1967; Sec. 69-5815, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-5808, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5808(4), 69-5815; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 68, L. 1979; Sec. 75-3-104, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-104 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-105. Conflicting laws. Ordinances, resolutions, or regulations now or hereafter in effect of the governing body of a municipality or county relating to byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials shall not be superseded by this chapter, provided that such ordinances or regulations are and shall continue to be consistent with the provisions of this chapter, amendments thereto, and rules thereunder.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 108, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5811; Sec. 75-3-105, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-105 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-106. Confidentiality — trade secrets. A report of investigation or inspection or processes obtained under this chapter shall not be disclosed or opened to public inspection except as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5806(8); Sec. 75-3-106, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-106 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.

50-79-107. Inspections. The department or its duly authorized representatives shall have the power to enter at all reasonable times upon any private or public property within the jurisdiction of the department, other than a private dwelling, for the purpose of determining whether or not there is compliance with or violation of the provisions of this chapter and rules promulgated thereunder, and the owner, occupant, or person in charge of such property shall permit such entry and inspection. Entry into areas under the jurisdiction of the federal government shall be effected only with the concurrence of the federal government or its duly designated representative.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5807; Sec. 75-3-107, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-107 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individual to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

50-79-108. Inspection agreements and training programs. (1) The department, on behalf of the state, may enter into an agreement or agreements with the federal government, other states, or interstate agencies whereby this state shall perform, on a cooperative basis with the federal government, other states, or interstate agencies, inspections or other functions relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation.

(2) The department and any other appropriate state agency may institute training programs for the purpose of qualifying personnel to carry out the provisions of this chapter and may make said personnel available for participation in any program or programs of the federal government, other states, or interstate agencies in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5810; Sec. 75-3-108, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-108 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 2
Control of Radioactive Substances

Part Cross-References

Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, Title 50, ch. 79, part 5.

50-79-201. State radiation control agency. (1) The department is the state radiation control agency.

(2) Under the laws of this state, the department may employ, compensate, and prescribe the powers and duties of the individuals that are necessary to carry out this chapter.

(3) The department may, subject to the provisions of 50-79-410, for the protection of the occupational and public health and safety:

(a) develop and conduct programs for evaluation and control of hazards associated with the use of sources of ionizing radiation;

(b) develop programs and adopt rules with due regard for compatibility with federal programs for licensing and regulation of byproduct, source, radioactive waste, and special nuclear materials and other radioactive materials. These rules must cover equipment and facilities, methods for transporting, handling, and storage of radioactive materials, permissible levels of exposure, technical qualifications of personnel, required notification of accidents and other incidents involving radioactive materials, survey methods and results, methods of disposal of radioactive materials, posting and labeling of areas and sources, and methods and effectiveness of controlling individuals in posted and restricted areas.

(c) adopt rules relating to control of other sources of ionizing radiation. These rules must cover equipment and facilities, permissible levels of exposure to personnel, posting of areas, surveys, and records.

(d) advise, consult, and cooperate with other agencies of the state, the federal government, other states, interstate agencies, political subdivisions, and groups concerned with control of sources of ionizing radiation;

(e) accept and administer loans, grants, or other funds or gifts, conditional or otherwise, in furtherance of its functions, from the federal government and from other sources, public or private;

(f) encourage, participate in, or conduct studies, investigations, training, research, and demonstrations relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation;

(g) collect and disseminate information relating to control of sources of ionizing radiation, including:

(i) maintenance of a file of all license applications, issuances, denials, amendments, transfers, renewals, modifications, suspensions, and revocations;

(ii) maintenance of a file of registrants possessing sources of ionizing radiation requiring registration under this chapter and any administrative or judicial action pertaining to this chapter;

(iii) maintenance of a file of all rules relating to regulation of sources of ionizing radiation, pending or adopted, and proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5804; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 471, L. 1995; Sec. 75-3-201, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-201 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, Title 50, ch. 79, part 5.

50-79-202. Licensing and registration. (1) The department may provide by rule for general or specific licensing of persons to receive, possess, or transfer radioactive materials and devices or equipment utilizing such materials. The rules shall provide for amendment, suspension, or revocation of licenses pursuant to 50-79-401 and 50-79-403.

(2) Each application for a specific license shall be in writing and shall state such information as the department by rule may determine to be necessary to decide the technical, insurance, and financial qualifications or any other qualification of the applicant as the department considers reasonable and necessary to protect the occupational and public health and safety. The department may, at any time after the filing of the application and before the expiration of the license, require further written statements and may make such inspections as the department considers necessary in order to determine whether the license should be granted, denied, modified, suspended, or revoked. All applications and statements shall be signed by the applicant or licensee. The department may require an application or statement to be made under oath or affirmation.

(3) Each license shall be in such form and contain such terms and conditions as the department may by rule prescribe.

(4) No license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and no right to possess or utilize sources of ionizing radiation granted by any license may be assigned or in any manner disposed of.

(5) The terms and conditions of all licenses shall be subject to amendment, revision, or modification by rules or orders issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(6) The department may require registration and inspection of persons dealing with sources of ionizing radiation which do not require a specific license and may require compliance with specific safety standards to be promulgated by the department.

(7) The department is authorized to exempt certain users from the licensing or registration requirements set forth in this section when the department makes a finding that the exemption of the users will not constitute a significant risk to the health and safety of the public.

(8) Rules promulgated pursuant to this chapter may provide for recognition of such other state or federal licenses as the department considers desirable, subject to such registration requirements as the department prescribes.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5806(1) thru (7), (9); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 574, L. 1983; Sec. 75-3-202, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-202 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

50-79-203. Federal-state agreements. (1) The governor, on behalf of this state, is authorized to enter into agreements with the federal government providing for discontinuance of certain of the federal government's responsibilities with respect to sources of ionizing radiation and the assumption thereof by this state.

(2) Any person who, on the effective date of an agreement under subsection (1) of this section, possesses a license issued by the federal government shall be deemed to possess the same pursuant to this chapter, which shall expire either 90 days after receipt from the department of a notice of expiration of such license or on the date of expiration specified in the federal license, whichever is earlier.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5809; Sec. 75-3-203, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-203 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-204. Records. (1) The department shall require each person who acquires, possesses, or uses a source of ionizing radiation to maintain records relating to its receipt, storage, transfer, or disposal and such other records as the department may require, subject to such exemptions as may be provided by rules.

(2) The department shall require each person who acquires, possesses, or uses a source of ionizing radiation to maintain appropriate records showing the radiation exposure of all individuals for whom personnel monitoring is required by rules of the department. Copies of these records and those required to be kept by subsection (1) of this section shall be submitted to the department on request.

(3) The department shall adopt reasonable regulations, compatible with those of the United States nuclear regulatory commission or the national committee on radiation protection, pertaining to reports of exposure of personnel to radiation. The regulations shall require that reports of excessive exposure be made to the individual exposed and to the department and shall make provision for periodic and terminal reports to individuals for whom personnel monitoring is required.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5808(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 68, L. 1979; Sec. 75-3-204, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-204 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 3
Disposal of Large Quantities of Radioactive Material

Part Cross-References

Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, Title 50, ch. 79, part 5.

50-79-301. Definition. Notwithstanding the definition in 50-79-103, as used in this part "person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, cooperative, association, government subdivision, government agency, local government, or other organization or entity.

History: En. 69-5817 by Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5817; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 68, L. 1979; Sec. 75-3-301, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-301 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-302. Disposal of large quantities of radioactive material prohibited — exceptions and exclusion. (1) No person may dispose of large quantity radioactive material, byproduct material, or special nuclear material within the state of Montana.

(2) Byproduct material (except large quantity radioactive material) possessed, used, and transported for educational purposes, scientific research and development, medical research, diagnosis, and treatment, geophysical surveying, and similar uses licensed by the United States nuclear regulatory commission shall be excepted from this part, provided that such material is being or has been lawfully disposed of within Montana upon the effective date of this Act.

(3) Nothing in this part precludes the construction of a nuclear facility approved under the requirements of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, or the mining of any raw ore, provided that such activity is not inconsistent with this part.

History: En. 69-5818, 69-5819, 69-5821 by Secs. 2, 3, 5, Ch. 68, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5818, 69-5819, 69-5821; amd. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 84, approved Nov. 4, 1980; Sec. 75-3-302, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-302 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, ch. 20.

50-79-303. Penalty. A person who knowingly or purposely disposes of large quantity radioactive material, byproduct material, or special nuclear material within Montana shall be fined an amount not more than $5,000 or be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both, for each offense. A person who negligently disposes of large quantity radioactive material, byproduct material, or special nuclear material within Montana shall be fined not more than $1,000 for each offense. In this part, each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

History: En. 69-5820 by Sec. 4, Ch. 68, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5820; amd. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 84, approved Nov. 4, 1980; Sec. 75-3-303, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-303 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Execution of fine, 46-19-102.

50-79-304. Policy. It is the policy of the state of Montana, in furtherance of its responsibility to protect the public health and safety, under the police powers of the state and for protection of the constitutional right to a healthy environment, to prohibit the disposal of certain radioactive material.

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 84, approved Nov. 4, 1980; Sec. 75-3-304, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-304 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

Part 4
Enforcement, Appeal, and Penalties

50-79-401. Administrative hearings. In a proceeding under this chapter for granting, suspending, revoking, or amending a license or for determining compliance with or granting exceptions from rules adopted under this chapter, the board of environmental review shall first afford an opportunity for a hearing on the record upon the request of a person whose interest may be affected by the proceeding and shall admit the person as a party to the proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5812(1); amd. Sec. 181, Ch. 418, L. 1995; Sec. 75-3-401, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-401 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested case hearings, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Board of Environmental Review created, 2-15-3502.

50-79-402. Emergency impoundment of materials. The department shall have the authority in the event of an emergency to impound or order the impounding of sources of ionizing radiation in the possession of any person who is not equipped to observe or who fails to observe the provisions of this chapter or any rules promulgated hereunder.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5814; Sec. 75-3-402, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-402 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-403. Emergency orders and rules. When the department finds that an emergency exists requiring immediate action to protect the public health and safety, the department may, without notice or hearing, issue a rule or order reciting the existence of the emergency and requiring that such action be taken as considered necessary to meet the emergency. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the rule or order is effective immediately. A person to whom the rule or order is directed shall comply with it immediately but on application to the board shall be afforded a prompt hearing. On the basis of the hearing the emergency rule or order shall be continued, modified, or revoked by the board within 30 days after the hearing or when the emergency no longer exists.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5812(2); Sec. 75-3-403, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-403 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Emergency rules, 2-4-303.

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

50-79-404. Prohibited activity. (1) No person shall acquire, own, possess, or use any radioactive byproduct material, source material, special nuclear materials, or other radioactive materials, occurring naturally or produced artificially, without having been granted a license therefor from the department or transfer to another or dispose of said materials without first having been granted approval of the department therefor in accordance with the administrative rules of the department.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to use, manufacture, produce, or knowingly transport, transfer, receive, acquire, own, or possess any source of ionizing radiation unless such person is licensed by or registered with the department in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and rules issued hereunder.

History: (1)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-5816, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 13, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-5813, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5813, 69-5816(part); Sec. 75-3-404, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-404 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-405. Penalty. A person who violates 50-79-404 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than $100 and not more than $1,000 or by confinement in the county jail of not less than 30 days and not more than 90 days or by both.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 108, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5816(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 68, L. 1979; Sec. 75-3-405, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-405 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

General penalty, 50-1-104.

50-79-406. Injunctions. The department may maintain an action in the district court to enjoin a continuance of an act in violation of this chapter or of a rule or order issued under this chapter. If the court finds that the defendant is violating or has violated any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or order issued under this chapter, it shall enjoin the defendant from a continuance thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1989; Sec. 75-3-406, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-406 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

50-79-407. Civil penalties — deposit in general fund — injunctions not barred. (1) A person who violates this chapter or a rule or order issued under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $5,000 for each violation. For purposes of this section, each day of a violation is a separate violation.

(2) The department shall initiate civil proceedings in district court to recover a penalty under subsection (1).

(3) Civil penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the general fund.

(4) An action under this section does not bar enforcement of this chapter or of rules or orders issued under it by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 1989; Sec. 75-3-407, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-407 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

50-79-408 and 50-79-409 reserved.

50-79-410. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The department may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

(2) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the department makes a written finding after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

(a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state; and

(b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the department's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed state standard or requirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the department adopted after January 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the department to review the rule. If the department determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines, the department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed $250.

(b) A person may also petition the department for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted department rule.

(5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 471, L. 1995; Sec. 75-3-410, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-410 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption of rule by incorporation by reference, 2-4-307.

Part 5
Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management

Part Cross-References

Western Interstate Nuclear Compact — state nuclear policy, Title 90, ch. 5, part 2.

50-79-501. Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management. The legislature of the state of Montana approves and ratifies the compact designated as the "Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management", which compact is as follows:

NORTHWEST INTERSTATE COMPACT ON LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE I — Policy and Purpose

The party states recognize that low-level radioactive wastes are generated by essential activities and services that benefit the citizens of the states. It is further recognized that the protection of the health and safety of the citizens of the party states and the most economical management of low-level radioactive wastes can be accomplished through cooperation of the states in minimizing the amount of handling and transportation required to dispose of such wastes and through the cooperation of the states in providing facilities that serve the region. It is the policy of the party states to undertake the necessary cooperation to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the party states and to provide for the most economical management of low-level radioactive wastes on a continuing basis. It is the purpose of this compact to provide the means for such a cooperative effort among the party states so that the protection of the citizens of the states and the maintenance of the viability of the states' economies will be enhanced while sharing the responsibilities of radioactive low-level waste management.

ARTICLE II — Definitions

As used in this compact:

(1) "Facility" means any site, location, structure, or property, excluding federal waste facilities, used or to be used for the storage, treatment, or disposal of low-level waste.

(2) "Low-level waste" means waste material which contains radioactive nuclides emitting primarily beta or gamma radiation, or both, in concentrations or quantities which exceed applicable federal or state standards for unrestricted release. Low-level waste does not include waste containing more than 10 nanocuries of transuranic contaminants per gram of material, spent reactor fuel, or material classified as either high-level waste or waste which is unsuited for disposal by near-surface burial under any applicable federal regulations.

(3) "Generator" means any person, partnership, association, corporation, or any other entity whatsoever which, as a part of its activities, produces low-level radioactive waste.

(4) "Host state" means a state in which a facility is located.

ARTICLE III — Regulatory Practices

Each party state hereby agrees to adopt practices which will require low-level waste shipments originating within its borders and destined for a facility within another party state to conform to the applicable packaging and transportation requirements and regulations of the host state. Such practices shall include:

(1) maintaining an inventory of all generators within the state that have shipped or expect to ship low-level waste to facilities in another party state;

(2) periodic unannounced inspection of the premises of such generators and the waste management activities thereon;

(3) authorization of the containers in which such waste may be shipped and a requirement that generators use only that type of container authorized by the state;

(4) assurance that inspections of the carriers which transport such waste are conducted by proper authorities and appropriate enforcement action is taken for violations;

(5) after receiving notification from a host state that a generator within the party state is in violation of applicable packaging or transportation standards, taking appropriate action to assure that such violations do not recur. Such action may include inspection of every individual low-level waste shipment by that generator.

Each party state may impose fees upon generators and shippers to recover the cost of the inspections and other practices under this article. Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit any party state's authority to impose additional or more stringent standards on generators or carriers than those required under this article.

ARTICLE IV — Regional Facilities

(1) Facilities located in any party state, other than facilities established or maintained by individual low-level waste generators for the management of their own low-level waste, shall accept low-level waste generated in any party state if such waste has been packaged and transported according to applicable laws and regulations.

(2) No facility located in any party state may accept low-level waste generated outside the region comprising the party states, except as provided in Article V.

(3) Until such time as paragraph (2) of this article takes effect as provided in Article VI, facilities located in any party state may accept low-level waste generated outside of any of the party states only if such waste is accompanied by a certificate of compliance issued by an official of the state in which such waste shipment originated. Such certificate must be in such form as may be required by the host state and shall contain at least the following:

(a) the generator's name and address;

(b) a description of the contents of the low-level waste container;

(c) a statement that the low-level waste being shipped has been inspected by the official who issued the certificate or by the official's agent or by a representative of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and was found to have been packaged in compliance with applicable federal regulations and such additional requirements as may be imposed by the host state;

(d) a binding agreement by the state of origin to reimburse any party state for any liability or expense incurred as a result of an accidental release of such waste during shipment or after such waste reaches the facility.

(4) Each party state shall cooperate with the other party states in determining the appropriate site of any facility that might be required within the region comprising the party states in order to maximize public health and safety while minimizing the use of any one party state as the host of such facilities on a permanent basis. Each party state further agrees that decisions regarding low-level waste management facilities in its region will be reached through a good faith process which takes into account the burdens borne by each of the party states as well as the benefits each has received.

(5) The party states recognize that the issue of hazardous chemical waste management is similar in many respects to that of low-level waste management. Therefore, in consideration of the state of Washington allowing access to its low-level waste disposal facility by generators in other party states, party states such as Oregon and Idaho, which host hazardous chemical waste disposal facilities, will allow access to such facilities by generators within other party states. Nothing in this compact may be construed to prevent any party state from limiting the nature and type of hazardous chemical or low-level wastes to be accepted at facilities within its borders or from ordering the closure of such facilities, so long as such action by a host state is applied equally to all generators within the region composed of the party states.

(6) Any host state may establish a schedule of fees and requirements related to its facilities to assure that closure, perpetual care, and maintenance and contingency requirements are met, including adequate bonding.

ARTICLE V — Northwest Low-Level Waste Compact Committee

The Governor of each party state shall designate one official of that state as the person responsible for administration of this compact. The officials so designated shall together comprise the Northwest Low-Level Waste Compact Committee. The committee shall meet as required to consider matters arising under this compact. The parties shall inform the committee of existing regulations concerning low-level waste management in their states and shall afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to review and comment upon any proposed modifications in such regulations. Notwithstanding any provision of Article IV to the contrary, the committee may enter into arrangements with states, provinces, individual generators, or regional compact entities outside the region comprising the party states for access to facilities on such terms and conditions as the committee may deem appropriate. However, it shall require a two-thirds vote of all such members, including the affirmative vote of the member of any party state in which a facility affected by such arrangement is located, for the committee to enter into such arrangement.

ARTICLE VI — Eligible Parties and Effective Date

(1) Each of the following states is eligible to become a party to this compact: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. As to any eligible party, this compact shall become effective upon enactment into law by that party, but it shall not become initially effective until enacted into law by two states. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing its approval.

(2) After the compact has initially taken effect pursuant to paragraph (1) of this article, any eligible party state may become a party to this compact by the execution of an executive order by the Governor of the state. Any state which becomes a party in this manner shall cease to be a party upon the final adjournment of the next general or regular session of its Legislature or July 1, 1983, whichever occurs first, unless the compact has by then been enacted as a statute by that state.

(3) Paragraph (2) of Article IV of this compact shall take effect on July 1, 1983, if consent is given by Congress. As provided in Public Law 96-573, Congress may withdraw its consent to the compact after every 5-year period.

ARTICLE VII — Severability

If any provision of this compact or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, all other provisions of this compact and the application of all of its provisions to all other persons and circumstances shall remain valid, and to this end the provisions of this compact are severable.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 1983; Sec. 75-3-501, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-501 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1898, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

50-79-502. Administration of compact — fees. (1) The department of public health and human services, as the state radiation control agency, shall administer the provisions of the compact.

(2) The department may assess and collect fees for services rendered in inspecting and regulating low-level radioactive waste generators, transporters, and disposal facilities. The fees must cover the department's costs for those services and must be deposited in the state special revenue fund for use by the department. State and local government agencies, including the university system, are exempt from the payment of fees.

(3) The department may adopt rules under the authority contained in 50-79-201(3)(b) to implement the provisions of this compact.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 242, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 73, L. 1997; Sec. 75-3-502, MCA 1995; redes. 50-79-502 by Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

TITLE 51
RESERVED

TITLE 52

FAMILY SERVICES

Ch.
1. Administration.
2. Children's Services.
3. Adult Services.
4. Services to the Disabled.
5. Corrections.
6. Battered Spouses.
7. Montana Children's Trust Fund.
8. Licensing of Child Placement Agency.

CHAPTER 1

ADMINISTRATION

Part 1 — General

52-1-101. Purpose.
52-1-102. Definitions.
52-1-103. Powers and duties of department.
52-1-104. Department authorized to provide and set standards for supplementary payments.
52-1-105. Repealed.
52-1-106 through 52-1-109 reserved.
52-1-110. Repealed.

Part 2 — Local Service Areas

52-1-201. Local service areas.
52-1-202. Repealed.
52-1-203. Repealed.

Part 1

General

52-1-101. Purpose. It is the public policy of the legislature to reduce duplication and fragmentation of services to youth, families, and senior citizens by creating a department that shall develop and maintain consolidated programs and services, except youth correctional services, within available resources, and a planned continuum of services to:

(1) provide protective services to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of children and adults who are in danger of abuse, neglect, or exploitation within communities; and

(2) provide supportive services to enable senior citizens to maintain their independence.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 333, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-1-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Director" means the director of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 334, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-1-103. Powers and duties of department. The department shall:

(1) administer and supervise all forms of child and adult protective services;

(2) act as the lead agency in coordinating and planning services to children with multiagency service needs;

(3) establish a system of councils at the state and local levels to make recommendations and to advise the department on issues, including children's issues;

(4) provide the following functions, as necessary, for youth in need of care:

(a) intake, investigation, case management, and client supervision;

(b) placement in youth care facilities;

(c) contracting for necessary services;

(d) protective services day care; and

(e) adoption;

(5) register or license youth care facilities, child-placing agencies, day-care facilities, community homes for persons with developmental disabilities, community homes for severely disabled persons, and adult foster care facilities;

(6) act as lead agency in implementing and coordinating child-care programs and services under the Montana Child Care Act;

(7) administer the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children;

(8) (a) administer child abuse prevention services funded through child abuse grants and the Montana children's trust fund provided for in Title 52, chapter 7, part 1; and

(b) administer vulnerable adult abuse prevention services;

(9) develop a statewide youth services and resources plan that takes into consideration local needs;

(10) administer services to older adults;

(11) provide consultant services to:

(a) facilities providing care for adults who are needy, indigent, or dependent or who have disabilities; and

(b) youth care facilities;

(12) use the staff and services of other state agencies and units of the Montana university system, within their respective statutory functions, to carry out its functions under this title;

(13) contract, as necessary, for administration of child and adult protection services for each county; and

(14) adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of 52-2-612 and this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 692, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 655, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 458, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 12, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 10, Ch. 12, L. 2023, in (8)(b) substituted "vulnerable adult abuse" for "elder abuse". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 17, L. 2023, in (10) substituted "older adults" for "the aged". Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Montana Child Care Act, Title 52, ch. 2, part 7.

52-1-104. Department authorized to provide and set standards for supplementary payments. (1) Except as provided in this section, the department may provide supplementary payments from state funds to recipients of supplemental security income for the aged, blind, or disabled under Title XVI of the Social Security Act of the United States or any future amendments to that act.

(2) The department may establish standards of assistance and apply them uniformly throughout the state and may determine individuals eligible for and the amount of supplementary payments under federal and state guidelines.

(3) The department may not provide supplementary payments under subsection (1) for persons who are residents of category B assisted living facilities licensed pursuant to 50-5-227.

History: (1)En. 71-210.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1974; Sec. 71-210.2, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 71-210.3 by Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1974; Sec. 71-210.3, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-210.2, 71-210.3; Sec. 53-2-204, MCA 1985; redes. 52-1-104 by Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 54, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-1-105. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

52-1-106 through 52-1-109 reserved.

52-1-110. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 336, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Part 2
Local Service Areas

52-1-201. Local service areas. The department shall organize its field offices into local service areas. The director shall take into consideration geographic boundaries used by local governments, judicial districts, and service agencies when creating local service areas.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

52-1-202. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 91, L. 1993.

52-1-203. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 91, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 2
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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52-2-101. Definitions.
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52-2-103 through 52-2-109 reserved.
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52-2-111. Administrative duties of department.
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52-2-121. Development of state permanent placement policy and plan.

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52-2-201. Purpose.
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52-2-306. Repealed.
52-2-307. Repealed.
52-2-308. Rulemaking.
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Part 4 — Child Adoption Agencies (Repealed)

Part 5 — Subsidized Adoption (Renumbered)

Part 6 — Youth Residential Services

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52-2-612. Debt to state by natural or adoptive parents — limitations.
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52-2-616. Power of nonprofit corporations to establish homes and to receive facilities and funds.
52-2-617. Governmental contracts with nonprofit organizations.

52-2-618 through 52-2-620 reserved.
52-2-621. License required.
52-2-622. Issuance of license — authority of issuing agency — rules.
52-2-623. Penalty for failure to obtain license.
52-2-624 through 52-2-626 reserved.
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52-2-628. Respite care providers — recruitment, training, and employment — qualifications.

Part 7 — Child Care

52-2-701. Short title.
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52-2-706 through 52-2-709 reserved.
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52-2-716. Copayment requirements.
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52-2-721. License required — registration required — term of license or registration certificate — no fee charged.
52-2-722. Application for a license or registration certificate.
52-2-723. Requirements for licensure.
52-2-724. Provisional license — provisional registration certificate.
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52-2-737. Group day-care home — staffing requirement.
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52-2-741. Penalty — remedies.

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52-2-801. Purpose.
52-2-802. Definitions.
52-2-803. Duties of department.
52-2-804. License required — term of license — fees.
52-2-805. Requirements for licensure — restrictions — rulemaking.
52-2-806. Provisional license.
52-2-807. Renewal license.
52-2-808. Denial, cancellation, reduction, revocation, and nonrenewal of licenses — fair hearing.
52-2-809. Licensees and applicants to maintain records, furnish reports, and permit inspections.
52-2-810. Periodic visits to facilities by department — investigations — consultation with licensees and registrants.
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Part 9 — Early Intervention Services

52-2-901. Evaluation and assessment of language development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children — exception — report.
52-2-902. Definitions.
52-2-903. Parent resource on language developmental milestones — criteria — distribution — timeline for development.
52-2-904. Language development advisory committee.

Part 1
Child Welfare Services

Part Cross-References

Assistance to facilitate school attendance, 20-5-107.

Child abuse and neglect, Title 41, ch. 3.

52-2-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Child welfare services" means the establishing, extending, and strengthening of child welfare services, especially in predominantly rural areas, for the protection and care of abused or neglected children.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 2, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 264, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-706, R.C.M. 1947; (3), (4)En. 71-201.1 by Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-201.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-201.1, 71-706; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-101, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 249, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 356, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 458, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 337, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-2-102. Recognition of parental control of children — placement with extended family. This title may not be construed as authorizing any state or county official, agent, or representative, in carrying out any of the provisions of this title, to take charge of any child over the objection of either of the parents of the child or the person standing in loco parentis to the child, except pursuant to a proper court order. When it is necessary to take charge of a child pursuant to a court order, the department shall, when it is in the best interests of the child and when the home is approved by the department, place the child with the child's extended family, including adult siblings, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, and uncles, prior to placing the child in an alternative protective or residential facility.

History: En. Subd. (k) and (l), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M; 1947, 71-713(part); Sec. 53-4-102, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Child abuse and neglect, Title 41, ch. 3.

52-2-103 through 52-2-109 reserved.

52-2-110. Department to oversee federal funds supporting legal services for children. (1) The department shall leverage and maximize federal resources under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to support the provision of quality legal representation to children in proceedings under Title 41, chapter 3.

(2) The department shall enter into an agreement with the office of state public defender to obtain federal reimbursement funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for the provision of legal counsel to children in proceedings under Title 41, chapter 3.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

52-2-111. Administrative duties of department. (1) Subject to the authority and regulations of the department and in cooperation with the federal government, the department shall:

(a) adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this part; and

(b) administer or supervise all child welfare services of the state.

(2) The department division responsible for administering child welfare services shall require all employees hired as district supervisors or supervisors of field staff to complete annual child welfare supervisory training.

(3) The annual child welfare supervisory training may be made available to qualifying child protection specialists who demonstrate an interest and aptitude in becoming a supervisor in the child protection system.

History: En. Subd. (a), (b), (c), (d), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; Subd. (a) rep. Sec. 10, Ch. 117, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-708; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-111, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-111 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 338, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-2-112. Duty to strengthen child welfare services. The department shall make provision for establishing and strengthening child welfare services, including protective services, and for care of children in registered or licensed family foster homes, child-care agencies, group homes, or treatment facilities. Payment provided under this section is made under the provisions of 41-3-115 and 52-2-611.

History: En. Subd. (e), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-709; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 465, L. 1983; Sec. 53-4-112, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-112 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 458, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Policy regarding child abuse and neglect, 41-3-101.
Responsibility of providing child protective services, 41-3-302.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

52-2-113. Child rehabilitation — duties of department. The department shall:

(1) enforce all laws pertaining to children and take the initiative in all matters involving the interest of abused or neglected children;

(2) use funds allocated or appropriated to the department for the purpose of providing for the special medical or material needs of children with developmental disabilities or children with physical disabilities who are eligible for department programs;

(3) cooperate for the purposes of this part with all reputable child-helping and child-placing agencies; and

(4) inspect and register or license youth care facilities, child-placing agencies, and adoption agencies.

History: En. Subd. (f), (g), (h), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 117, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 264, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-710; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-113, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-113 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 458, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Minors, Title 41.
Child day-care centers, Title 52, ch. 2, part 7.

52-2-114. Department to supervise importation and exportation of children. The department shall supervise the importation and exportation of children.

History: En. Subd. (i), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-711; Sec. 53-4-114, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-114 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

Cross-References

Interstate placement of children, Title 41, ch. 4.

52-2-115. Department to accept custody of children. The department shall accept the physical custody of children transferred to the physical or legal custody of the department by the district court pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, chapter 3, and arrange for their care.

History: En. Subd. (j), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 129, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 71-712; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-115, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-115 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Youth in need of care — dispositional hearing, 41-3-438.
Disposition of youth in need of intervention or youth who violate consent adjustments, 41-5-1512.
Disposition of delinquent youth, 41-5-1513.

52-2-116. Department to assist other agencies. The department shall assist other departments, agencies, and public and private institutions of the state and federal government, when so requested, by performing services in conformity with the purposes of this part and particularly such services and duties as may be assigned to it by any state board composed of state officers, provided such services and duties are legally within the duties of such state board.

History: En. Subd. (k) and (l), Sec. 4, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-713(part); Sec. 53-4-116, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-116 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-2-117. *(Temporary)* **Indian child welfare specialist.** (1) The director of the department shall appoint a qualified person to act as an Indian child welfare specialist.

(2) The duties of the specialist include:

(a) developing Indian foster homes and other Indian placement resources;

(b) providing technical advice to tribal, state, and county agencies and district courts on matters pertaining to Indian child welfare;

(c) providing assistance in negotiating cooperative agreements to provide foster care services to Indian children;

(d) conducting training seminars on implementing the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. 1901, et seq.,and the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act provided for in Title 41, chapter 3, part 13;

(e) applying for and accepting grants and other funds for Indian child welfare activities;

(f) developing and maintaining a list of attorneys to represent indigent parents and Indian custodians in Indian child welfare proceedings;

(g) making recommendations to the department on legislation and rules concerning Indian child welfare matters; and

(h) performing other duties concerning Indian child welfare matters as determined by the director. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 55, Ch. 716, L. 2023.)*

52-2-117. *(Effective July 1, 2025)* **Indian child welfare specialist.** (1) The director of the department shall appoint a qualified person to act as an Indian child welfare specialist.

(2) The duties of the specialist include:

(a) developing Indian foster homes and other Indian placement resources;

(b) providing technical advice to tribal, state, and county agencies and district courts on matters pertaining to Indian child welfare;

(c) providing assistance in negotiating cooperative agreements to provide foster care services to Indian children;

(d) conducting training seminars on implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1901, et seq.);

(e) applying for and accepting grants and other funds for Indian child welfare activities;

(f) developing and maintaining a list of attorneys to represent indigent parents and Indian custodians in Indian child welfare proceedings;

(g) making recommendations to the department on legislation and rules concerning Indian child welfare matters; and

(h) performing other duties concerning Indian child welfare matters as determined by the director.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-117, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-117 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 716, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 50, Ch. 716, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.

52-2-118. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 579, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-118, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-118 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991.

52-2-119 and 52-2-120 reserved.

52-2-121. Development of state permanent placement policy and plan. The department shall develop a state permanent placement policy and plan for children in the state's child welfare system. The state plan must include, at a minimum:

(1) a plan that includes locating a permanent home for any child that has been in foster care for more than 1 year;

(2) the number of children impacted by the plan;

(3) identification of priorities in placement alternatives;

(4) identification of various strategies for improvement of the child welfare system and of an action plan to implement these strategies;

(5) interim findings and identification of barriers to permanent placement of children and recommendations to reduce or eliminate those barriers; and

(6) steps taken by the department to sustain systemic change in placement of children in out-of-home care.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Montana Family Policy Act, Title 41, ch. 7, part 1.

Part 2
Multiagency Children's Services

52-2-201. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to strengthen and improve children's services in Montana by requiring interagency cooperation regarding the provision of services to children.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 655, L. 1991.

52-2-202. Definitions. For purposes of this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Children with multiagency service needs" means children under 18 years of age who have a need for services that are available from more than one state agency.

(2) "Services" means publicly funded social services for children, including public education, child protective services, mental health services, child health care, and related services.

(3) "State agency" means:

(a) the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301;

(b) the board of crime control provided for in 2-15-2008;

(c) the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201; and

(d) the superintendent of public instruction provided for in 2-15-701.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 655, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 339, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-2-203. Cooperative agreement regarding children's services. (1) State agencies shall enter into a cooperative agreement for the purpose of coordinating services to children with multiagency service needs. However, the existing state and community interagency service delivery and planning process for developmental disabilities may not be affected by this section.

(2) The cooperative agreement may:

(a) include a functional definition of "children with multiagency service needs";

(b) identify the responsibilities of each state agency in relation to children with multiagency service needs;

(c) describe agreements to recognize duplicated services and to fill gaps in services to children with multiagency service needs;

(d) define a process for the resolution of disputes between state agencies that relate to specific areas of an agency's service responsibilities;

(e) establish local interagency staffing groups that consist of the following members:

(i) a local representative from each state agency who is authorized to commit resources and make decisions on behalf of the agency represented;

(ii) representatives of local school districts, youth probation offices, and other public agencies serving youth; and

(iii) representatives of local private youth service agencies;

(f) provide that if a state agency is not able to provide all the services that a child requires, the agency may submit the child's case history to the local staffing group for the provision of multiagency services to the child;

(g) provide that a local interagency staffing group shall meet at the request of any one of its members to consider the provision of services to a child with multiagency service needs;

(h) provide for confidentiality of a child's case records in the same manner as provided in 41-3-205; and

(i) provide for review and necessary revision of the cooperative agreement at least once annually.

(3) For purposes of this part, the department of public health and human services is designated as the lead agency in coordinating and planning services to children with multiagency service needs. Other state agencies shall cooperate with the department of public health and human services to ensure minimum duplication and maximum coordination of services for children in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 655, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 340, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Community-based services for persons with developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20, part 2.

52-2-204 through 52-2-210 reserved.

52-2-211. County or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team. (1) The county commissioners of each county shall ensure the formation of a county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team that includes representatives authorized by any of the following:

(a) the youth court;

(b) the county attorney;

(c) the department of public health and human services;

(d) the county superintendent of schools;

(e) the sheriff;

(f) the chief of any police force;

(g) any board of trustees of a public school district operating within the boundaries of the county; and

(h) the department of corrections.

(2) Officials under subsection (1) from one county may also cooperate with officials under subsection (1) from any other county to form regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety teams, in which case access to information under 41-5-215(2) is authorized for all members of the regional team for each county participating in a regional team. The formation of regional teams must be formalized by written agreement between participating counties.

(3) The persons and agencies listed in subsection (1) or (2) may by majority vote allow the following persons to join the team:

(a) physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and other providers of medical and mental health care;

(b) entities operating private elementary and secondary schools;

(c) attorneys; and

(d) a person or entity that has or may have a legitimate interest in one or more children that the team will serve.

(4) (a) The members of the team or their designees may form one or more auxiliary teams for the purpose of providing service to a single child, a group of children, or children with a particular type of problem or for any other purpose.

(b) A member of an auxiliary team must be a person who has personal knowledge of or experience with the child or children in the member's respective field.

(5) The purpose of the team is to ensure the timely exchange and sharing of information that one or more team members may be able to use in serving a child in the course of their professions and occupations, including but not limited to abused or neglected children, delinquent youth, and youth in need of intervention, and of information relating to issues of school safety. Information regarding a child that a team member supplies to other team members or that is disseminated to a team member under 41-3-205 or 41-5-215(2) may not be disseminated beyond the organizations or departments that have an authorized member on the team under this section.

(6) The team shall adopt a written agreement for the rules under which the team will operate, the method by which information will be shared, distributed, and managed, and any other matters necessary to the purpose and functions of the team. Any agreement created may not limit access of any team member to information under 41-5-215(2), and any delay in or failure to finalize an agreement may not be used by any member of the team to impede the timely exchange and sharing of information under subsection (5) of this section.

(7) An interdisciplinary child information and school safety team shall coordinate its efforts with interdisciplinary child protective teams as provided in 41-3-108 and youth placement committees as provided for in 41-5-121.

(8) To the extent that the county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team is involved in a proceeding that is held prior to adjudication of a youth in youth court, the team satisfies the requirements of 20 U.S.C. 1232g(b)(1)(E)(ii)(I) of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Montana school districts may release education records to the team. The officials and authorities to whom the information is disclosed may not disclose any information to any other party without the prior written consent of the parent or guardian of the student.

(9) The county superintendent of schools shall provide to the office of public instruction a current copy of the written agreement under this section no later than September 1. The office of public instruction shall report to the education interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 any county that has not provided a written agreement under this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 458, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 466, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 341, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 364, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 248, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.
Child abuse and neglect, Title 41, ch. 3.

Part 3
Multiagency Service Placement Plan

52-2-301. State policy. The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state:

(1) to provide for and encourage the development of a stable system of care, including quality education, treatment, and services for the high-risk children of this state with multiagency service needs, to the extent that funds are available;

(2) to serve high-risk children with multiagency service needs either in their homes or in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting for their needs in order to preserve the unity and welfare of the family, whenever possible, and to provide for their care and protection and mental, social, and physical development;

(3) to serve high-risk children with multiagency service needs within their home, community, region, and state, whenever possible, and to use out-of-state providers as a last resort;

(4) to provide integrated services to high-risk children with multiagency service needs;

(5) to contain costs and reduce the use of high-cost, highly restrictive, out-of-home placements;

(6) to increase the capacity of communities to serve high-risk children with multiagency service needs in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting for their needs by promoting collaboration and cooperation among the agencies that provide services to children;

(7) to prioritize available resources for meeting the essential needs of high-risk children with multiagency service needs; and

(8) to reduce out-of-home and out-of-community placements through a children's system of care account to fund in-state and community-based services that meet the needs of high-risk children with multiagency service needs in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting possible.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 123, L. 2007.

52-2-302. Definitions. The following definitions apply to this part:

(1) (a) "High-risk child with multiagency service needs" means a child under 18 years of age who is seriously emotionally disturbed, who is placed or who imminently may be placed in an out-of-home setting, and who has a need for collaboration from more than one state agency in order to address the child's needs.

(b) The term does not include a child incarcerated in a correctional facility as defined in 41-5-103.

(2) "Least restrictive and most appropriate setting" means a setting in which a high-risk child with multiagency service needs is served:

(a) within the child's family or community; or

(b) outside the child's family or community where the needed services are not available within the child's family or community and where the setting is determined to be the most appropriate alternative setting based on:

(i) the safety of the child and others;

(ii) ethnic and cultural norms;

(iii) preservation of the family;

(iv) services needed by the child and the family;

(v) the geographic proximity to the child's family and community if proximity is important to the child's treatment.

(3) "Provider" means an agency of state or local government, a person, or a program authorized to provide treatment or services to a high-risk child with multiagency service needs who is suffering from mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders.

(4) "Services" has the meaning as defined in 52-2-202.

(5) "System of care" means an integrated service support system that:

(a) emphasizes the strengths of the child and the child's family;

(b) is comprehensive and individualized; and

(c) provides for:

(i) culturally competent and developmentally appropriate services in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting;

(ii) full involvement of families and providers as partners;

(iii) interagency collaboration; and

(iv) unified care and treatment planning at the individual child level.

(6) "Wraparound philosophy of care" means a planning process that is designed to address the needs of a child and the child's family and that:

(a) empowers the family to take the lead in making decisions affecting the planning for support systems and services;

(b) reflects the family's values, preferences, culture, strengths, and needs;

(c) emphasizes community-based natural and informal support systems;

(d) involves collaboration among members of a team that is developed with involvement of the family and that includes agencies, providers, and others who offer support to the child and family;

(e) provides services in the least restrictive and most accessible setting possible; and

(f) contains measurable outcomes that are regularly reviewed by the team and adjusted as necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 118, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 339, L. 2021.**

52-2-303. Children's system of care planning committee — membership — administration. (1) There is a children's system of care planning committee.

(2) The committee is composed of the following members:

(a) an appointee of the director of the department of public health and human services representing the mental health program;

(b) an appointee of the director of the department of public health and human services representing child protective services;

(c) an appointee of the director of the department of public health and human services representing the developmental disability program;

(d) an appointee of the director of the department of public health and human services representing the chemical dependency treatment program;

(e) other appointees considered appropriate by the director of the department of public health and human services who may be representatives of families of high-risk children with multiagency service needs, service providers, or other interested persons or governmental agencies;

(f) an appointee of the superintendent of public instruction representing education;

(g) an appointee of the director of the department of corrections;

(h) an appointee of the youth justice council of the board of crime control; and

(i) an appointee of the supreme court representing the youth courts.

(3) The committee is attached to the department of public health and human services for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(4) Except as provided in this section, the committee must be administered in accordance with 2-15-122.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 342, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 118, L. 2003.**

52-2-304. Committee duties. (1) The committee established in 52-2-303 shall, to the extent possible within existing resources:

(a) develop policies aimed at eliminating or reducing barriers to the implementation of a system of care;

(b) promote the development of an in-state quality array of core services in order to assist in returning high-risk children with multiagency service needs from out-of-state placements, limiting and preventing the placement of high-risk children with multiagency service needs out of state, and maintaining high-risk children with multiagency service needs within the least restrictive and most appropriate setting;

(c) advise local agencies to ensure that the agencies comply with applicable statutes, administrative rules, and department policy in committing funds and resources for the implementation of unified plans of care for high-risk children with multiagency service needs and in making any determination that a high-risk child with multiagency service needs cannot be served by an in-state provider;

(d) encourage the development of local interagency teams with participation from representatives from child serving agencies who are authorized to commit resources and make decisions on behalf of the agency represented;

(e) specify outcome indicators and measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the system of care;

(f) develop mechanisms to elicit meaningful participation from parents, family members, and youth who are currently being served or who have been served in the children's system of care; and

(g) take into consideration the policies, plans, and budget developed by any service area authority provided for in 53-21-1006.

(2) The committee shall coordinate responsibility for the development of a stable system of care for high-risk children with multiagency service needs that may include, as appropriate within existing resources:

(a) pooling funding from federal, state, and local sources to maximize the most cost-effective use of funds to provide services in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting to high-risk children with multiagency service needs;

(b) applying for federal waivers and grants to improve the delivery of integrated services to high-risk children with multiagency service needs;

(c) providing for multiagency data collection and for analysis relevant to the creation of an accurate profile of the state's high-risk children with multiagency service needs in order to provide for the use of services based on client needs and outcomes and use of the analysis in the decisionmaking process;

(d) developing mechanisms for the pooling of human and fiscal resources; and

(e) providing training and technical assistance, as funds permit, at the local level regarding governance, development of a system of care, and delivery of integrated multiagency children's services.

(3) (a) In order to maximize integration and minimize duplication, the local interagency team, provided for in subsection (1)(d), may be facilitated in conjunction with an existing statutory team for providing youth services, including:

(i) a child protective team as provided for in 41-3-108;

(ii) a youth placement committee as provided for in 41-5-121 and 41-5-122;

(iii) a county or regional interdisciplinary child information and school safety team or an auxiliary team as provided for in 52-2-211;

(iv) a foster care review committee as provided for in 41-3-115;

(v) a local citizen review board as provided for in 41-3-1003; and

(vi) a local advisory council as provided for in 53-21-702.

(b) If the local interagency team decides to coordinate and consolidate statutory teams, it shall ensure that all state and federal rules, laws, and policies required of the individual statutory teams are fulfilled.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 324, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 118, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 364, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 248, L. 2019.

52-2-305. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 118, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 324, L. 1993.**

52-2-306. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 118, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 324, L. 1993.**

52-2-307. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 118, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 324, L. 1993.**

52-2-308. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this part. The rules must be adopted in cooperation with the committee established in 52-2-303.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 324, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 118, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-2-309. Children's system of care account. (1) There is a children's system of care account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. The fund must be used for the purpose of administering and delivering services to high-risk children with multiagency service needs and to provide for the children's care, protection, and mental, social, and physical development.

(2) The children's system of care account must consist of funds:

(a) transferred, to the extent possible within existing resources, by the agencies named in 52-2-303 from their agency appropriation;

(b) designated by the legislature; or

(c) received for the account from any other source.

(3) The department shall use funds from the children's system of care account to reimburse in-state or community-based providers of services for services that allow high-risk children with multiagency service needs to be placed or to remain in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting, to the extent that the services are not eligible for reimbursement from another source.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 2007.**

52-2-310. Development and use of qualified provider pools — circumstances requiring participation in the pool — exceptions. (1) In order to accomplish the goals of 52-2-301, the department shall establish a pool of qualified in-state providers identified as willing and able to meet the significant needs of high-risk children with multiagency service needs who are currently placed or may be placed out of state. Using existing staff resources, the department shall design and implement a process in which licensed providers qualify for a pool by demonstrating their ability to provide mental health services for children:

(a) through use of available federal and state special revenue and state general fund money;

(b) in the least restrictive setting available;

(c) in accordance with the state's goal of using a wraparound philosophy of care and planning process; and

(d) using criteria established by the department to address the specialized needs of high-risk children with multiagency service needs.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department shall:

(i) allow any willing and qualified in-state provider to review a case involving a high-risk child with multiagency service needs and to propose a plan of care for providing in-state services to the child; and

(ii) require an in-state provider to review each case involving a high-risk child with multiagency service needs and to propose a plan of care for providing in-state services to the child if:

(A) the provider is receiving an enhanced medicaid reimbursement rate because the provider has increased access to in-state care for medicaid-eligible Montana children who would otherwise be placed out of state to receive necessary care; and

(B) the provider offers services appropriate to the needs of the child.

(b) Prior to contracting with a provider for the delivery of in-state services, the department shall determine that the plan of care submitted by the in-state provider is both cost-effective and in the best interests of the child.

(c) If a qualified in-state provider proposes a plan of care for providing in-state services to the child, the department may not certify a child for placement with an out-of-state provider unless it denies the plan of care proposed by the in-state provider.

(3) (a) The department is not required to seek a plan of care from an in-state provider if doing so would delay placement and create a higher level of risk for the child in need of services or if the out-of-state provider is located nearer to the child's home or family than the in-state provider.

(b) An in-state provider is not required to review a case and propose a plan of care:

(i) for a child who has medically complex needs that cannot be met in the state;

(ii) for a child who is developmentally disabled with comorbidities;

(iii) if the provider's licensure precludes accepting the child; or

(iv) when accepting a child would pose a demonstrable risk to the child seeking admission, to other children currently receiving services from the provider, or to the provider's staff.

(c) The department shall adopt rules to outline the circumstances under which a provider would qualify for the exception allowed under subsection (3)(b)(iv).

(d) (i) A provider shall submit a plan of care within 2 working days of receiving a case for review.

(ii) A provider seeking an exception under subsection (3)(b)(iv) shall provide a statement in a form prescribed by the department to demonstrate the risk to the child seeking admission, to other children currently receiving services from the provider, or to the provider's staff.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-2-311. Out-of-state placement monitoring and reporting. (1) The department shall collect the following information regarding high-risk children with multiagency service needs:

(a) the number of children placed out of state;

(b) the reasons each child was placed out of state;

(c) the costs for each child placed out of state;

(d) the process used to avoid out-of-state placements;

(e) the number of in-state providers participating in the pool; and

(f) the location of the facilities in which the children were placed.

(2) For children whose placement is funded in whole or in part by medicaid, the report must include information indicating other department programs with which the child is involved.

(3) On an ongoing basis, the department shall attempt to reduce out-of-state placements.

(4) The department shall report, in accordance with 5-11-210, to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee no later than August 30 each year concerning the information it has collected under this section and the results of the efforts it has made to reduce out-of-state placements. The report must cover placements made during the most recently completed fiscal year.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 377, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 347, L. 2021.**

Part 4
Child Adoption Agencies
(Repealed)

52-2-401. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-701; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-4-401, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-401 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 343, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

52-2-402. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 10-702; Sec. 53-4-402, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-402 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-2-403. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-703(part); Sec. 53-4-403, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-403 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-2-404. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-703(part); Sec. 53-4-404, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-404 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-2-405. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-704, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-703, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 10-703(part), 10-704; Sec. 53-4-405, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-405 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-2-406. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-705; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 38, L. 1979; Sec. 53-4-406, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-406 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-2-407. Repealed. Sec. 171, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 179, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 10-706; Sec. 53-4-407, MCA 1989; redes. 52-2-407 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 5
Subsidized Adoption
(Renumbered)

52-2-501. Renumbered 42-10-101. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-502. Renumbered 42-10-102. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-503. Renumbered 42-10-103. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-504. Renumbered 42-10-104. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-505. Renumbered 42-10-105. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-506. Renumbered 42-10-106. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-507. Renumbered 42-10-107. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-508. Renumbered 42-10-108. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-509. Renumbered 42-10-109. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-510. Renumbered 42-10-110. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-511 through 52-2-520 reserved.

52-2-521. Renumbered 42-10-121. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-522. Renumbered 42-10-122. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-523. Renumbered 42-10-123. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-524. Renumbered 42-10-124. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-525. Renumbered 42-10-125. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-526. Renumbered 42-10-126. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-527. Renumbered 42-10-127. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

52-2-528. Renumbered 42-10-128. Sec. 174, Ch. 480, L. 1997.

Part 6
Youth Residential Services

Part Cross-References

Disposition of youth in need of intervention or youth who violate consent adjustments, 41-5-1512.

Relationship of foster homes, youth group homes, community residential facilities, and day-care homes to zoning, 76-2-412.

52-2-601. Establishment of substitute care for youth. The legislature, in recognition of the wide and varied needs of youth in need of care, delinquent youth, and youth in need of intervention of this state and of the desirability of meeting these needs on a community level to the fullest extent possible, establishes by this part a system of substitute care to provide facilities and services for youth placed out of their homes and establishes a program to provide those facilities and services through local nonprofit corporations, counties, and the department of public health and human services.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 434, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 550, L. 1997; Sec. 41-3-1101, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-601 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Duty to strengthen child welfare services, 52-2-112.

52-2-602. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Child-care agency" means a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided to 13 or more children or youth.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Foster child" means a person under 18 years of age who has been placed by the department in a youth care facility.

(4) "Kinship foster home" means a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided to one to six children or youth other than the kinship parent's own children, stepchildren, or wards. The substitute care may be provided by any of the following:

(a) a member of the child's extended family;

(b) a member of the child's or family's tribe;

(c) the child's godparents;

(d) the child's stepparents; or

(e) a person to whom the child, child's parents, or family ascribe a family relationship and with whom the child has had a significant emotional tie that existed prior to the department's involvement with the child or family.

(5) "Person" means any individual, partnership, voluntary association, or corporation.

(6) "Respite care" means the provision of temporary, short-term supervision or care of a foster child, in an emergency or on an intermittent basis, to provide foster parents relief from the daily care requirements of a foster child whose mental or physical condition requires special or intensive supervision or care. Respite care includes but is not limited to homemaker services, child care, and emergency care either in the home or out of the home.

(7) "Respite care provider" means a person who meets the qualifications and requirements established by the department to provide respite care under 52-2-627.

(8) "Substitute care" means full-time care of a youth in a residential setting who is placed by the department, another state agency, or a licensed child-placing agency. Individuals who provide care to youth who are recipients of services provided through the department's developmental disabilities, mental health, or medicaid home and community-based services waiver program are also considered to be providing substitute care. This part does not apply when a person accepts the care and custody of a child on a temporary basis as an accommodation for the parent or parents, guardian, or relative of the child.

(9) "Transitional living program" means a program with the goal of self-sufficiency in which supervision of the living arrangement is provided for a youth who is 16 years of age or older and under 21 years of age.

(10) "Youth assessment center" has the meaning provided in 41-5-103.

(11) "Youth care facility" means a facility that is licensed by the department or by the appropriate licensing authority in another state and in which facility substitute care is provided to youth. The term includes youth foster homes, kinship foster homes, youth group homes, youth shelter care facilities, child-care agencies, transitional living programs, and youth assessment centers.

(12) "Youth foster home" means a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided to one to six children or youth other than the foster parents' own children, stepchildren, or wards.

(13) "Youth group home" means a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided to 7 to 12 children or youth.

(14) "Youth shelter care facility" means a youth care facility that regularly receives children under temporary conditions until the court, probation office, department, or other appropriate social services agency has made other provisions for the children's care.

History: (1), (2), (5) thru (9)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 1983; (3), (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1947; Sec. 10-520, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 10-1316 by Sec. 14, Ch. 328, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1316; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 465, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 41-3-501; redes. 41-3-1102 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 531, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 514, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 41-3-1102, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-602 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Definition of community residential facility, 76-2-411.

52-2-603. Powers and duties of department. (1) The department shall:

(a) administer all state and federal funds allocated to the department for youth foster homes, kinship foster homes, youth group homes, youth shelter care facilities, child-care agencies, and transitional living programs for youth in need of care, as defined in 41-3-102;

(b) exercise licensing authority over all youth foster homes, kinship foster homes, youth group homes, youth shelter care facilities, child-care agencies, transitional living programs, and youth assessment centers;

(c) collect and disseminate information relating to youth in need of care;

(d) provide for training of program personnel delivering services;

(e) in cooperation with youth care facility providers, develop and implement standards for youth care facilities;

(f) maintain adequate data on placements it funds in order to keep the legislature properly informed of the following:

(i) the number of youth in need of care in out-of-home care facilities;

(ii) the cost per facility for services rendered;

(iii) the type and level of care of services provided by each facility;

(iv) a profile of out-of-home care placements by level of care; and

(v) a profile of public institutional placements;

(g) administer all funds allocated to the department for residential alcohol and drug abuse treatment for indigent youth in need of care, indigent youth in need of intervention, and indigent delinquent youth who require treatment; and

(h) provide reimbursement for mental health outpatient counseling services for persons who experience the death of a foster child while providing substitute care to the foster child in a youth care facility.

(2) The department may:

(a) enter into contracts with nonprofit corporations or associations or private organizations to provide substitute care for youth in need of care in youth care facilities;

(b) accept gifts, grants, and donations of money and property from public and private sources to initiate and maintain community-based services to youth;

(c) adopt rules to carry out the administration and purposes of this part.

(3) The department shall pay for room, board, clothing, personal needs, and transportation in youth foster care homes and youth group homes for youth who are in the physical or legal custody of the department and who need to be placed in the facilities. Payments for the clothing of a youth placed in a youth foster home must be provided to the extent that the youth needs a basic wardrobe or has a special clothing need. Upon approval by the department, payments under this subsection may continue for a youth up to 21 years of age who remains in substitute care. Payments under this subsection may not exceed appropriations for the purposes of this subsection.

(4) The department may provide a subsidy for a guardianship of a child who is in the department's legal custody if the guardianship has been approved by the department pursuant to 41-3-444 and in accordance with eligibility criteria established by department rule.

History: En. Secs. 8, 17, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 15, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 531, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 434, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 629, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 799, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 127, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 428, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 41-3-1103, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-603 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Administrative duties of Department, 52-2-111.

52-2-604. Transfer of custody to private agency — reports. When the legal custody of a youth is vested in a public agency under the provisions of this part, the public agency may transfer physical custody of the youth to an appropriate private agency and may purchase care and treatment from the private agency if the private agency submits periodic reports to the public agency covering the care and treatment the youth is receiving and the youth's responses to that care and treatment. These reports shall be made as frequently as the public agency or the court deems necessary, but not less often than once each 6 months for each youth. The private agency shall also afford an opportunity for a representative of the public agency to examine or consult with the youth as frequently as the public agency deems necessary.

History: En. 10-1227 by Sec. 27, Ch. 329, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1227; MCA 1981, 41-5-804; redes. 41-3-1105 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; Sec. 41-3-1105, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-604 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-2-605 through 52-2-610 reserved.

52-2-611. Payment for support of youth in need of care, youth in need of intervention, or delinquent youth. (1) Whenever a youth who is a youth in need of care, a youth in need of intervention, or a delinquent youth is placed by the department of public health and human services or the department of corrections in a youth care facility, the department making the placement shall pay, within the limits of the appropriation for that purpose, a foster care payment to the youth care facility at a rate established by the department of public health and human services for the youth's board, clothing, personal needs, treatment, and room.

(2) The department shall conduct or arrange for the review required under 41-3-115, or when applicable, 41-3-1010 of a youth placed in a youth care facility if the youth is placed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-524, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 10-1320 by Sec. 14, Ch. 328, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 100, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1320; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 543, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 465, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 41-3-104; redes. 41-3-1122 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 531, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 610, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 571, L. 2001; Sec. 41-3-1122, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-611 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Remedy for parental abuse, 40-6-233.

Financial responsibility — interstate placement of children, 41-4-102.

Duty to strengthen child welfare services, 52-2-112.

52-2-612. Debt to state by natural or adoptive parents — limitations. If a child has been placed in substitute care, as defined in 41-5-103 and 52-2-602, and a written agreement for payment of support has been entered into by the responsible parent or parents and the department, the debt for support is limited to the amount provided for in the agreement. However, if a court order for support is or has been entered, the order prevails over the agreement.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 41-3-1126, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-612 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Child support — orders to address health insurance, 40-4-204.

52-2-613 through 52-2-615 reserved.

52-2-616. Power of nonprofit corporations to establish homes and to receive facilities and funds. Nonprofit corporations or associations may be formed or organized for the purpose of establishing youth care facilities or to provide community-based services and to receive from the department and other governmental units such services, facilities, training, and funds as the department or other governmental units may be authorized by law to provide.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 465, L. 1983; Sec. 41-3-1131, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-616 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-2-617. Governmental contracts with nonprofit organizations. (1) The department of public health and human services and the department of corrections may contract with nonprofit corporations or associations to provide facilities and services for youth in need of care, youth in need of intervention, and delinquent youth in youth care facilities and are authorized to expend money that is appropriated or available for those purposes. The contracts must be based on the following considerations:

(a) budgets submitted by the nonprofit corporation or association identifying fixed and variable costs;

(b) reasonable costs of service;

(c) appropriation level; and

(d) availability of funds.

(2) Governmental units, including but not limited to counties, municipalities, school districts, or state institutions of higher learning, are authorized to provide funds, materials, facilities, and services for community-based services at their own expense.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 550, L. 1997; Sec. 41-3-1132, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-617 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.

52-2-618 through 52-2-620 reserved.

52-2-621. License required. (1) A person may not maintain or operate a youth care facility for any child or children within the meaning of this part without first securing a license from the department.

(2) A kinship care provider who provides unlicensed care for a child placed pursuant to the legal authority of the department must receive approval in writing from the department.

(3) An extended family member, as defined by the department, who provides unlicensed care for a youth who receives services provided through the department's developmental disabilities program, mental health program, or medicaid home and community-based services waiver program must receive approval in writing from the department.

(4) The department may not charge a fee for a license or approval granted under this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-521, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 10-1317 by Sec. 14, Ch. 328, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1317; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 465, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 41-3-502; redes. 41-3-1141 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 514, L. 1997; Sec. 41-3-1141, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-621 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Requirements for visitation, inspection, and supervision, 41-4-106.

Administrative duties of Department, 52-2-111.

Child rehabilitation — duties of Department, 52-2-113.

Relationship of foster homes, youth group homes, community residential facilities, and day-care homes to zoning, 76-2-412.

52-2-622. Issuance of license — authority of issuing agency — rules. (1) The department may issue licenses to persons operating youth care facilities or grant approval of kinship or extended family care providers and prescribe the conditions upon which licenses and approvals may be issued. The department may make rules necessary for the licensure or approval, operation, and regulation of those facilities consistent with the welfare of the residents.

(2) The department may inspect all licensed facilities or approved homes and, as appropriate, undertake action, including but not limited to the revocation of licenses and approvals.

(3) The person providing care in the facilities or homes shall give the department any information that may be required and afford the department every reasonable opportunity for observing the operation of the facilities or homes.

(4) The department shall require an applicant for a youth foster home license to submit to a criminal and child protection background check, which must include information pertaining to criminal convictions, reports of domestic violence, and substantiated child abuse or neglect of children. The department shall require a criminal background investigation of each applicant by means of a fingerprint check by the Montana department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-521, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 10-1317 by Sec. 14, Ch. 328, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1317; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 465, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 41-3-503; redes. 41-3-1142 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 514, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 41-3-1142, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-622 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Requirements for visitation, inspection, and supervision, 41-4-106.
One-step licensing required, 50-8-102.
Administrative duties of Department, 52-2-111.
Duty to strengthen child welfare services, 52-2-112.
Child rehabilitation — duties of Department, 52-2-113.
Relationship of foster homes, youth group homes, community residential facilities, and day-care homes to zoning, 76-2-412.

52-2-623. Penalty for failure to obtain license. Any person who maintains or operates a youth care facility or assists in operating or maintaining such facility without having first obtained a license in writing as hereto provided shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 178, L. 1947; Sec, 10-523, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 10-1319 by Sec. 14, Ch. 328, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-1319; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 465, L. 1983; MCA 1981, 41-3-504; redes. 41-3-1143 by Sec. 31(4), Ch. 465, L. 1983; Sec. 41-3-1143, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-623 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Relationship of foster homes, youth group homes, community residential facilities, and day-care homes to zoning, 76-2-412.

52-2-624 through 52-2-626 reserved.

52-2-627. Respite care. (1) The department shall provide respite care, to the extent funds are available, for foster children who are:

(a) persons with developmental disabilities and either on a respite care waiting list or not eligible for respite care from another program;

(b) medically demanding because they are nonambulatory or have other special needs requiring intensive supervision or care; or

(c) suffering from severe emotional problems that are manifested in serious behavior problems.

(2) Respite care may be provided by the department on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis at a rate of payment to be determined by the department.

(3) Respite care may not be provided in an institutionalized setting except in cases involving foster children who require intensive supervision or care.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 559, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; Sec. 41-3-1151, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-627 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-2-628. Respite care providers — recruitment, training, and employment — qualifications. (1) The department shall either directly or by contract with public or private, nonprofit agencies recruit, train, and employ respite care providers.

(2) Respite care providers shall meet the qualifications and requirements specified in rules adopted by the department pursuant to 52-2-603.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 559, L. 1991; Sec. 41-3-1152, MCA 1999; redes. 52-2-628 by Sec. 17(3)(d), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Part 7
Child Care

Part Cross-References

Authorization to levy tax and establish fund for establishment and maintenance of day-care facilities, 7-16-4114.
Preschool pupil immunization requirements, Title 20, ch. 5, part 4.

52-2-701. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Child Care Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 692, L. 1989.

52-2-702. Purpose — findings. (1) The purpose of this part is to assure that children requiring day care be provided such food, shelter, security and safety, guidance and direction, nurture and comfort, and learning experiences commensurate to their ages and capabilities so as to safeguard the growth and development of such children, thereby facilitating their proper physical and emotional maturation.

(2) (a) The legislature finds that the number of children living in homes where both parents work or in homes with a single parent who works has increased dramatically over the last decade.

(b) The legislature finds that the availability of quality child care is critical to the self-sufficiency and independence of Montana families, including the growing number of mothers who have young children and who work out of economic necessity.

(c) The legislature further finds that the number of quality child-care arrangements falls far short of the number required for children in need of child-care services.

(d) It is the intent of the legislature that the state promote day care for the purposes of:

(i) improving the quality of, and coordination among, child-care programs and providing additional resources for child-care services;

(ii) promoting the availability and diversity of quality child-care services for all children and families that need such services;

(iii) providing assistance to families whose financial resources are not sufficient to enable them to pay the full costs of necessary child-care services;

(iv) ensuring that parents are not forced by lack of available programs or financial resources to place a child in an unsafe or unhealthy child-care facility; and

(v) assisting people in finding and maintaining employment by lessening the stress related to the lack of adequate child care.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-501(1), MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-702(1) by Code Commissioner, 1989; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 692, L. 1989.

52-2-703. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Child" means a person under 13 years of age or a person with special needs, as defined by the department, who is under 18 years of age or is 18 years of age and a full-time student expected to complete an educational program by 19 years of age.

(2) "Day care" or "child care" means care for children provided by an adult, other than a parent of the children or other person living with the children as a parent, on a regular or irregular basis, as applicable, for daily periods of less than 24 hours, whether that care is for daytime or nighttime hours.

(3) (a) "Day-care center" means an out-of-home place in which day care is provided to 16 or more children on a regular or irregular basis.

(b) The term does not include a place where day care is provided if a parent of a child for whom day care is provided remains on the premises.

(4) "Day-care facility" means a person, association, or place, incorporated or unincorporated, that provides day care on a regular basis or a place licensed or registered to provide day care on an irregular basis, as provided for in subsection (3)(a), or for children suffering from illness. The term includes a family day-care home, a day-care center, a group day-care home, or a facility providing care in a child's home for the purpose of meeting registration requirements for the receipt of payments as provided in 52-2-713. The term does not include:

(a) a person who limits care to children who are related to the person by blood or marriage or under the person's legal guardianship, unless registration or licensure as a day-care facility is required to receive payments as provided in 52-2-713; or

(b) any group facility established chiefly for educational purposes that limits its services to children who are 3 years of age or older.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Family day-care home" means a private residence in which day care is provided to three to eight children on a regular basis.

(7) "Group day-care home" means a private residence or other structure in which day care is provided to 9 to 15 children on a regular basis.

(8) "License" means a written document issued by the department that the license holder has complied with this part and the applicable standards and rules for day-care centers.

(9) "Licensee" means the holder of a license issued by the department in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(10) "Professional training" means training for early childhood or school-age care providers that is recognized as professional development by a national education or certification organization or by a higher education institution.

(11) "Registrant" means the holder of a registration certificate issued by the department in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(12) "Registration" means the process whereby the department maintains a record of all family day-care homes and group day-care homes, prescribes standards, promulgates rules, and requires the operator of a family day-care home or a group day-care home to certify compliance with the prescribed standards and promulgated rules.

(13) "Registration certificate" means a written instrument issued by the department to publicly document that the certificate holder has, in writing, certified to the department compliance with this part and the applicable standards for family day-care homes and group day-care homes.

(14) "Regular basis" means providing day care to children of separate families for any daily periods of less than 24 hours and within 3 or more consecutive weeks.

(15) (a) "Related by blood or marriage" means the status of a child who is the son, daughter, brother, sister, first cousin, nephew, niece, or grandchild of a person providing child care.

(b) The term includes the status of a child described in subsection (15)(a) in a step or adoptive relationship.

(16) "School age" means a person who is at least 5 years of age and who is younger than 13 years of age or a person with special needs, as defined by the department, who is under 18 years of age or is 18 years of age and a full-time student expected to complete an educational program by 19 years of age.

(17) "School-age care" means an adult-supervised program that is provided for school-age children during nonschool hours.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-801; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-501(2), MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-703 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 348, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 2021.

52-2-704. Duties of department. (1) The department is responsible for planning, implementing, and coordinating programs under the Montana Child Care Act.

(2) The department shall:

(a) assess child-care needs and resources within the state;

(b) develop a state child-care plan;

(c) coordinate child-care programs administered by all state agencies;

(d) issue licenses to persons to receive children into a day-care center on a regular basis;

(e) prescribe the conditions and publish minimum standards upon which licenses and registration certificates are issued;

(f) adopt rules for day-care facilities consistent with the purposes of this part;

(g) adopt rules for day-care centers that provide day care on an irregular basis, which includes exceptions regarding requirements for immunization records and staffing ratios; and

(h) issue registration certificates to a person or persons to receive children into a family day-care home or group day-care home on a regular basis.

(3) The department may:

(a) enter into interagency agreements to administer and coordinate child-care programs;

(b) accept any federal funds made available for the improvement or promotion of child-care services within the state;

(c) administer any state and federal funds that may be appropriated for the purposes of the part; and

(d) issue a license to a person to receive children into a day-care center on an irregular basis if the person chooses to apply for licensure.

History: (1), (2)(a) thru (2)(c), (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 692, L. 1989; (2)(d) thru (2)(g)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 10-806(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-503, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-702(2)(d) thru (2)(g) by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 91, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 149, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 349, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 2001.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment of Administrative Rule: Section 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023, directed the Department of Public Health and Human Services to amend Rule 37.95.623, Administrative Rules of Montana. See 2023 Session Law for text of preamble and amendments made by sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023. Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-2-705. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 692, L. 1989.

52-2-706 through 52-2-709 reserved.

52-2-710. At-home infant care program — definition. (1) There is an at-home infant care program for low-income families in which a parent provides full-time child care for the family's infant under 2 years of age that will be funded if a specific appropriation is added to the general appropriations act or by budget amendment if funds become available from federal or private sources. Subject to subsection (2), the family may receive a payment in lieu of child-care assistance if the family meets the following eligibility requirements:

(a) The family is not receiving cash assistance under Title 53, chapter 4, parts 2 and 6.

(b) The family has not previously received a total of 24 months of at-home infant care assistance under this section.

(c) The family is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

(d) The family has fulfilled the following work requirements for 1 out of the 3 months prior to entering the program:

(i) 120 hours a month for two-parent families, which may be the contribution of one or both parents;

(ii) 60 hours a month for single-parent families;

(iii) 40 hours a month for single-parent families who are attending postsecondary education or training.

(e) A parent must be 18 years of age or older or, if under 18 years of age, have attained an equivalency of completion of secondary education, as provided in 20-7-131, or a high school diploma.

(f) A parent must meet any additional requirements as provided in administrative rules.

(2) A parent who is under 18 years of age and attending high school or a program for equivalency of completion of secondary education, as provided in 20-7-131, may receive benefits for months outside of the regular school year.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "parent" means a birth parent, a stepparent, a foster parent, or a guardian who is acting in loco parentis.

(4) The maximum rate of assistance allowed is equal to the amount of child-care assistance for infant family care for the appropriate district, as adopted by the department by rule. The family may not receive subsidies for child care for other children in the family.

(5) A participating family shall report income and other family changes as specified by rule. State agencies shall treat income received under this program as earned income.

(6) Family members may participate in education and work activities as long as one or both parents provide care full time for the infant.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

52-2-711. Resource and referral and day-care improvement grant program. (1) (a) There is a grant program established within the department for the allocation of grant money to local child-care resource and referral programs and for improving the availability of quality child care and school-age day care.

(b) Program funds may include money from the following sources:

(i) funds specifically appropriated by the legislature for use under this section;

(ii) private gifts, grants, and donations;

(iii) federal or foundation grants awarded to the state for the purposes of this section; and

(iv) any other money made available for the purposes of this section.

(2) (a) The department may award grants to private, nonprofit organizations and public organizations that demonstrate the ability to provide child-care resource and referral services.

(b) To be eligible for a grant from the department as a resource and referral agency for a local area, an organization:

(i) shall maintain a database of child-care services in the community, including day-care facilities and preschools, which the organization continually updates;

(ii) shall include on the staff of the organization at least one individual who has expertise in child development;

(iii) must have the capability to provide resource and referral services in the local area;

(iv) must be able to respond to requests for information or assistance in a timely fashion;

(v) must be committed to providing services to all segments of the general public;

(vi) must be able to provide parents with a checklist to identify quality child-care services;

(vii) must be able to provide information on the availability of child-care subsidies;

(viii) shall maintain and make available to the public the number of all referrals made by the resource and referral agency; and

(ix) shall otherwise satisfy regulations promulgated by the department pursuant to this part.

(3) (a) The department may award grants for improving the availability of quality child care and school-age day care and for consumer education.

(b) The following grant applications must be given priority:

(i) grant applications for professional training for day-care or school-age care providers;

(ii) grant applications for the startup of school-age care programs or facilities when a community need has been demonstrated;

(iii) grant applications for consumer education; and

(iv) grant applications for preservation or expansion of existing care programs that fill a demonstrated need.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to administer the provisions of this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 692, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 318, L. 1997.

52-2-712. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 618, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 692, L. 1989.

52-2-713. Payments for eligible children. The department shall pay a rate established by the department and appropriated by the legislature based on a child's authorized enrollment slot to a day-care facility licensed or registered by the department for each child receiving day-care service and certified eligible by the department to receive day-care services.

History: En. 10-812 by Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 10-812; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 662, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-514, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-713 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 773, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 773, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

52-2-714. Best beginnings child care scholarship program. There is a best beginnings child care scholarship program administered by the department. The program is established to provide scholarships to qualified low-income families whose child received care provided by a licensed or registered child care provider or day-care facility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 773, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 773, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

52-2-715. Family income eligibility requirements. In determining income eligibility for the best beginnings child care scholarship program, the department shall:

(1) set a qualifying income threshold at no less than 185% of the federal poverty level for each family size; and

(2) set a maximum qualifying income level that is no higher than that allowed by the federal child care and development block grant.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 773, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 773, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

52-2-716. Copayment requirements. Each eligible family shall participate in the cost of child care by making a copayment based on a sliding fee scale not to exceed 9% of an eligible family's monthly income.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 773, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 773, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

52-2-717 through 52-2-720 reserved.

52-2-721. License required — registration required — term of license or registration certificate — no fee charged. (1) Except as provided in subsection (7), a person, group of persons, or corporation may not:

(a) establish or maintain a day-care center for children, in which day care is provided on a regular basis, unless licensed to do so by the department;

(b) operate a family day-care home or group day-care home without first procuring a family day-care or group day-care registration certificate from the department.

(2) The license and registration certificate must contain the ages and numbers of children for whom day care may be provided.

(3) The applicant's own children must be included in the manner provided for in department regulations in the total number of children to be cared for under the license or registration certificate.

(4) The department:

(a) may issue a license or registration certificate that remains in effect for a period not to exceed 3 years; and

(b) may not charge a fee to issue a license or registration certificate.

(5) A 3-year license may be issued only to a provider who has not received notice of any deficiencies on the licensing criteria and implementing guidelines that are provided in department rule.

(6) The department may issue a license to a day-care center in which day care is provided on an irregular basis if the person operating the center chooses to apply for licensure.

(7) A person who provides day care in a private residence for six or fewer children is not required to obtain a family day-care registration certificate and is exempt from the requirements of this part if that person does not receive payments as provided in 52-2-713.

(8) The department shall recognize the status of and may not require a state license for a facility that is licensed as a family child care provider or child care facility by a branch of the United States armed forces, including the United States coast guard.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-802; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-502, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-721 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 505, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 189, L. 2023, inserted (8) concerning a facility licensed by a branch of the Unites States armed forces. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 511, L. 2023, in (1) at beginning inserted exception clause; inserted (7) concerning a person who provides day care in a private residence; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

52-2-722. Application for a license or registration certificate. (1) Application for a license or registration certificate shall be made to the department in the county in which the applicant lives on forms prescribed by the department.

(2) Applications for a license or registration certificate by Indians residing on Indian reservations shall be made through the tribal governing body on forms prescribed by the department. Applications made through a tribal governing body shall be accompanied by a request by the tribal governing body that the department investigate to determine whether a license or registration certificate should be granted.

(3) Within 30 days of receipt of the application, the department shall determine whether a license or registration certificate should be issued.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 10-806(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-507, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-722 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction on Indian lands, Title 2, ch. 1, part 3.

52-2-723. Requirements for licensure. (1) The department shall include in the minimum standards for day-care centers the following requirements:

(a) The applicant, the applicant's employees, and all those persons who will come in direct contact with the children are of good character.

(b) The staff of the day-care facility is sufficient in number as provided by rule to provide adequate supervision and care of the children in the facility.

(c) Essential programs and practices carried on by the facility staff are developed and carried out with due regard for the protection of the health, safety, development, and well-being of the children.

(d) Applicant and staff are qualified by practical experience or education or training to give good care and treatment to the children.

(e) Intake records are kept on each child admitted for care.

(f) The applicant and staff limit admissions to the maximum number indicated on the current license.

(g) The applicant will arrange for the necessary precautions to guard against communicable diseases.

(h) Public liability insurance and fire insurance are currently in force for the protection of the operator, the staff, and the facility.

(i) The ages and numbers of children that may be cared for in a day-care facility are specified.

(2) It is the duty of the department or its authorized representative to assist applicants in meeting the minimum requirements.

History: (1)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1977; Sec. 10-806, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 10-809, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 10-806(part), 10-809(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-508, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-723 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 1899, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment of Administrative Rule: Section 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023, directed the Department of Public Health and Human Services to amend Rule 37.95.623, Administrative Rules of Montana. See 2023 Session Law for text of preamble and amendments made by sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023. Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Casualty insurance, Title 33, ch. 23.
Property insurance, Title 33, ch. 24.
Duty to report cases of communicable disease, 37-2-301.

52-2-724. Provisional license — provisional registration certificate. (1) The department may issue a provisional license or provisional registration certificate for a period which may not exceed 6 months if it finds that a day-care facility or applicant does not meet all standards established by the department, as long as the facility or applicant is attempting to meet the minimum standards.

(2) The department may not waive the requirement that a day-care center be certified under the provisions of 52-2-734 and 52-2-735.

(3) The department may not waive the requirement that a day-care facility have current and adequate public liability insurance and fire insurance.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-807; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-509, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-724 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

52-2-725. Renewal license — registration certificate. If a licensed or registered day-care facility desires to renew a license or registration certificate, the request for renewal shall be made in writing, on forms prescribed by the department, in the county in which the applicant lives, 30 days prior to the expiration of its license or registration certificate.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-808; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-510, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-725 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

52-2-726. Denial, cancellation, reduction, revocation, and nonrenewal of licenses and registration certificates — fair hearing. (1) The department, after written notice to the applicant, licensee, or registrant, may deny, suspend, cancel, reduce, modify, or revoke a license or registration certificate upon finding that:

(a) any of the applicable conditions set forth in this part as prerequisites for the issuance of a license or registration certificate no longer exist;

(b) the licensee or registrant is no longer in compliance with the minimum standards prescribed by the department; or

(c) the license or registration certificate was issued upon fraudulent or untrue representation.

(2) The applicant, licensee, or registrant by written request may invoke the opportunity for hearing on the department's action by requesting a hearing within 10 days of notice of department action. The hearing shall be conducted according to the department's rules.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-810; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-513, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-726 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.

52-2-727 through 52-2-730 reserved.

52-2-731. Standards for day care. In developing standards, the department shall seek the advice and assistance of the superintendent of public instruction, representatives of day-care facilities, specialists in child care, and representatives of parent groups who use the services of day-care facilities. The standards may pertain to:

(1) character, suitability, and qualifications of an applicant and other persons directly responsible for the care of children;

(2) the number of individuals or staff required for adequate supervision and care of children in day-care facilities;

(3) child-care programs and practices necessary to ensure the health, safety, safety in transportation, development, and well-being of children;

(4) adequate and appropriate admission policies;

(5) adequacy of physical facilities and equipment;

(6) general financial ability and competence of an applicant to provide necessary care for children and maintain prescribed standards;

(7) the ages and numbers of children that may be cared for in a day-care facility.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-803; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-504, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-731 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 350, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment of Administrative Rule: Section 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023, directed the Department of Public Health and Human Services to amend Rule 37.95.623, Administrative Rules of Montana. See 2023 Session Law for text of preamble and amendments made by sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 2023. Effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-2-732. Licensees or registrants to maintain records, furnish reports, and permit inspections. It shall be the duty of every applicant for a license or for registration and every licensee or registrant to give the right of entrance to and inspection of premises to representatives of the department at reasonable times, to keep and maintain such records as the department may prescribe, to permit inspection of these records, and to report to the department such facts as may be required on forms furnished by the department.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-809(part); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-512, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-732 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

52-2-733. Periodic visits to facilities by department — investigations — consultation with licensees and registrants. (1) The department or its authorized representative shall make periodic visits to all licensed day-care centers to ensure that minimum standards are maintained.

(2) The department may investigate and inspect the conditions and qualifications of any day-care center, group day-care home, or family day-care home seeking or holding a license or registration certificate under the provisions of this part.

(3) The department shall visit and inspect at least 20% of all registered family day-care homes and group day-care homes in each of the governor's planning regions annually.

(4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the department shall make annual unannounced visits to day-care centers that are licensed on an annual basis.

(b) The department may make annual unannounced visits to day-care centers that have been granted 2-year or 3-year licenses under 52-2-721 or that have successfully passed inspections for 10 consecutive years.

(5) Upon request of the department, the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice shall inspect any day-care facility for which a license or registration certificate is applied for or issued and shall report its findings to the department.

(6) Upon request, the department shall give consultation to every licensee and registrant who desires to upgrade the services of the licensee's or registrant's program.

(7) This section may not be construed to require the department to conduct an inspection of each day-care facility applying for a registration certificate under the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-809(part); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-511, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-733 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 351, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services — sanitary inspections, 50-1-203.
State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3, part 1.

52-2-734. Fire safety — certification required. (1) The state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice shall adopt and enforce rules for the protection of children in day-care centers from fire hazards and arrange for any inspections and investigations it considers necessary.

(2) Before a license can be issued to operate a day-care center, each applicant shall submit to the department a certificate of approval from the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice indicating compliance with fire safety rules.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-804; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 503, L. 1985; Sec. 53-4-505, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-734 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
State fire prevention and investigation program — Advisory Council, 2-15-2005.
State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3, part 1.

52-2-735. Health protection — certification required. (1) The department shall adopt rules for the protection of children in day-care centers from the health hazards of inadequate food preparation, poor nutrition, and communicable diseases. Rules adopted by the department must include rules requiring children under 5 years of age to be immunized against Haemophilus influenza type "b" before being admitted for care in the facility unless an exemption has been claimed as provided in 20-5-405.

(2) Local public health authorities shall arrange to provide training to day-care center providers and employees regarding health hazards. Upon successful completion of the training the local public health authorities shall issue certificates to the providers and employees.

(3) In lieu of training, local public health authorities may elect to inspect facilities and issue certificates of approval to child-care center providers.

(4) Each applicant for a license to operate a day-care center shall submit to the department a certificate issued pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) before the department will issue a license.

(5) The local public health authority may charge the applicant a reasonable fee, not to exceed $25, for any inspection necessary to issue a certificate of approval, or a fee not to exceed the documented cost for training it provides under this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-805; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 606, L. 1981; Sec. 53-4-506, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-735 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 352, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-2-736. Prohibition against administering medicine without authorization — provision for emergency — definitions — penalty. (1) An employee, owner, household member, volunteer, or operator of a day-care facility, as defined in 52-2-703, regardless of whether the facility is licensed or registered, may not purposely or knowingly administer any medicine, as defined in 37-7-101, to a child attending the day-care facility without written authorization. Written authorization must include the child's name, date or dates for which the authorization is applicable, dosage instructions, and signature of the child's parent or guardian.

(2) If an emergency medical condition arises and the parent or guardian of the child is unavailable, an employee, owner, or operator of a day-care facility may administer medicine to a child attending the day-care facility without the written authorization of a parent or guardian as provided in subsection (1) if:

(a) a medical practitioner provides a written authorization containing the child's name, date or dates for which the authorization is applicable, dosage instructions, and the medical practitioner's signature; or

(b) a medical practitioner, emergency services provider, or 9-1-1 responder verbally directs the employee, owner, or operator of the day-care facility attending the child to immediately administer a medicine to the child and the child is subsequently transported within a reasonable time by the child's parents, an owner, operator, or employee of the child-care facility, a health care provider, or an emergency services provider to a health care facility or a medical practitioner for followup care.

(3) A medicine administered to a child pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) may not be inappropriately administered.

(4) An employee, owner, or operator of a day-care facility who has administered medicine to a child in accordance with this section may not be prosecuted for causing bodily injury or severe bodily injury to a child.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "bodily injury" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101;

(b) "emergency medical condition" means circumstances in which a prudent lay person acting reasonably would believe that an emergency medical condition exists;

(c) "emergency services provider" has the meaning provided in 50-16-701;

(d) "health care facility" means a profit or nonprofit, public or private physician's office, hospital, critical access hospital, infirmary, clinic, outpatient center for primary care, outpatient center for surgical services, or medical assistance facility, as any of those terms are defined in 50-5-101;

(e) "inappropriately administered" means to give medicine to a child that is not indicated, as to the medicine's type, dosage, or frequency of use or the container instructions, if any, by the medical symptoms exhibited by the child;

(f) "knowingly" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101;

(g) "medical practitioner" has the meaning provided in 37-2-101;

(h) "9-1-1 responder" means a law enforcement dispatcher or other person answering a 9-1-1 telephone call, a person answering a telephone call made to a poison control center, or an emergency services provider;

(i) "purposely" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101; and

(j) "serious bodily injury" has the meaning provided in 45-2-101.

(4) (a) A person convicted of purposely or knowingly administering medicine without authorization resulting in bodily injury to a child shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or be fined an amount not to exceed $500, or both.

(b) A person convicted of purposely or knowingly administering medicine without authorization resulting in serious bodily injury to a child or in the death of a child shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 20 years or be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000, or both.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 2005.

52-2-737. Group day-care home — staffing requirement. There must be at least two caregivers caring for the children at all times when there are more than eight children present at a group day-care home.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 2021.

52-2-738 through 52-2-740 reserved.

52-2-741. Penalty — remedies. (1) A person, group of persons, or corporation who establishes or maintains a day-care facility or assists in conducting or maintaining a day-care facility without first obtaining a license or registration certificate from the department as provided for in this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not to exceed $500.

(2) (a) If the department is advised or has reason to believe that a person, group of persons, or corporation is operating a day-care facility without a license or registration certificate, it shall make an investigation to ascertain the facts. If the department finds that the day-care facility is being or has been operated without a license or registration certificate, it may report the results of its investigation to the attorney general or the county attorney of the county where the day-care facility is being operated for prosecution and request that an injunction be issued against the facility until a license or certificate is issued.

(b) The department may institute any action necessary to enforce compliance with this part or any order or rule of the department under this part or to obtain a judicial interpretation of any of the foregoing.

(c) The department may, by its own attorney, any county attorney, or the attorney general, initiate an action in the justice's court, city court, municipal court, or district court of the appropriate jurisdiction and be represented by that representative on appeal to the district court and supreme court of Montana, as applicable.

History: (1)En. Sec. 18, Ch. 606, L. 1981; (2)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 10-811; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 606, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 692, L. 1989; Sec. 53-4-515, MCA 1987; redes. 52-2-741 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Part 8

Private Alternative Adolescent Residential or Outdoor Programs

52-2-801. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to provide for the licensure and regulation of private alternative adolescent residential or outdoor programs to monitor and maintain a high standard of care and to ensure the health and safety of the adolescents and parents using the programs.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services — head, 2-15-2201.
Treatment facility standards, 53-24-208.

52-2-802. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Direct access" means that an individual has or likely will have person-to-person spoken or physical contact with or access to a program participant.

(3) "License" means a written document issued by the department that the license holder has complied with this part and the applicable standards and rules for programs.

(4) "Licensee" means the holder of a license issued by the department in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(5) "Person associated with the program" means any owner, partner, member, employee, or contractor providing professional or occupational services to a program.

(6) (a) "Program" means a private alternative adolescent residential or outdoor program that provides a structured, private, alternative residential setting for youth who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, or learning problems and who have a history of failing in academic, social, moral, or emotional development at home or in less-structured traditional settings.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) any program that is otherwise required to be licensed or regulated by the state under Title 50, 52, or 53, except that a program that holds itself out as providing primary, inpatient chemical dependency treatment must ensure that the treatment program is provided by a public or private chemical treatment facility approved by the department under 53-24-208.

(ii) recreational programs such as boy scouts, girl scouts, or 4-H clubs;

(iii) organizations, boarding schools, or residential schools with a sole focus on academics;

(iv) residential training or vocational programs with a sole focus on education and vocational training;

(v) youth camps with a focus on recreation and faith-related activities; or

(vi) an organization, boarding school, or residential school that is an adjunct ministry of a church incorporated in the state of Montana.

(7) "Program participant" means any adolescent to whom services are being provided by the program.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 2019.**

52-2-803. Duties of department. The department shall:

(1) exercise licensing authority over all programs under this part;

(2) adopt rules prescribing the health and safety standards upon which licenses are issued under this part;

(3) adopt rules setting forth reasonable licensing fees;

(4) make available to the public information on the name, address, and contact information for each licensee; and

(5) report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on the department's efforts related to this part.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 293, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Clearinghouse for reports to Legislature, 5-11-210.

52-2-804. License required — term of license — fees. (1) A person, group of persons, or corporation may not establish or maintain a program as defined in this part unless licensed to do so by the department. A license is valid only for the person and premises for which it was issued. A license may not be sold, assigned, or transferred.

(2) The department:

(a) may issue a license that remains in effect for a period not to exceed 3 years; and

(b) may charge a reasonable fee commensurate with administrative costs to issue a license, as set forth by rule.

(3) A 3-year license may be issued only to a program that has not received notice of any deficiencies on the licensing criteria and implementation guidelines that are provided in department rule.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 293, L. 2019.**

52-2-805. Requirements for licensure — restrictions — rulemaking. (1) The department shall require applicants and licensees:

(a) to submit a set of fingerprints for each person associated with the program who has direct access to program participants for the purpose of conducting a criminal and child protection background check by the Montana department of justice and the federal bureau of investigation. This background investigation must include information pertaining to criminal convictions, reports of domestic violence, and substantiated child abuse or neglect of children.

(b) to maintain and to provide verification of policies of insurance in a form and in an adequate amount as determined by rule.

(2) In developing minimum standards for licensed programs, the department shall adopt rules that pertain to ensuring the health and safety of program participants, including:

(a) a procedure for a licensed program to report the use of a medical, chemical, or physical restraint or seclusion to the department within 1 business day after the day on which the use of the medical, chemical, or physical restraint or seclusion occurs;

(b) guidelines for written policies and procedures of the licensed program, including policies and procedures on suicide prevention and for implementation of the requirements and restrictions in subsections (3) and (4);

(c) a procedure for the department to review and approve the licensed program's policies and procedures; and

(d) a procedure for submitting a complaint about a licensed program to the department and law enforcement and a requirement that each licensed program publicly post information that describes how to submit a complaint about the licensed program to the department and law enforcement.

(3) A licensed program may not:

(a) use physical discipline or the threat of physical discipline as a punishment, deterrent, or incentive;

(b) deprive a youth of basic necessity or inherent right, including education;

(c) admit a youth who is under the age approved in the licensure or has a condition not allowed to be treated under the licensure; or

(d) sexually abuse, exploit, or harass an enrolled youth.

(4) A licensed program must:

(a) allow a parent or guardian to remove a youth from the licensed program; and

(b) unless otherwise prohibited by law or court order, facilitate weekly confidential video communication between a youth and the youth's parents, guardians, or foster parents.

(5) A licensed program shall provide a fixed number telephone to the child abuse hotline operated by the department that is readily available to enrolled participants 24 hours a day.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 293, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-2-806. Provisional license. The department may issue a provisional license for a period not to exceed 6 months if it finds that a licensee or applicant does not meet all standards established by the department as long as the licensee or applicant is attempting to meet the minimum standards.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

52-2-807. Renewal license. If a licensed program desires to renew a license, the request for renewal must be made at least 30 days prior to the expiration of its license.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

52-2-808. Denial, cancellation, reduction, revocation, and nonrenewal of licenses — fair hearing. (1) The department, after written notice to the applicant or licensee, may deny, suspend, cancel, reduce, modify, or revoke a license upon finding that:

(a) any of the applicable conditions set forth in this part and the rules adopted pursuant to this part as prerequisites for the issuance of a license no longer exist;

(b) the licensee is no longer in compliance with the minimum standards prescribed by the department; or

(c) the license was issued upon fraudulent or untrue representation.

(2) The applicant or licensee by written request may invoke the opportunity for hearing on the department's action by requesting a hearing within 10 days of notice of department action. The hearing must be conducted according to the department's rules.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

52-2-809. Licensees and applicants to maintain records, furnish reports, and permit inspections. Every applicant for a license and every licensee shall give the right of entrance to and inspection of premises to representatives of the department at reasonable times, keep and maintain records as the department may prescribe, permit inspection of these records, and report to the department facts that may be required on forms furnished by the department.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

52-2-810. Periodic visits to facilities by department — investigations — consultation with licensees and registrants. (1) The department or its authorized representative shall make periodic visits to all licensed programs to ensure that minimum standards are maintained.

(2) The department shall investigate and inspect the conditions and qualifications of any program seeking or holding a license under the provisions of this part.

(3) (a) The department shall conduct an onsite inspection of:

(i) each program applying for a license; and

(ii) each licensed program at least semiannually.

(b) The semiannual inspections of a licensed program must be unannounced.

(c) At least 50% of the youth enrolled in the program must be interviewed by department staff during each inspection. Program staff may not be present during these interviews.

(d) All records of a licensed program must be open to inspection by the department at all reasonable times.

(4) On request of the department, the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice shall inspect any program for which a license is applied for or issued and shall report its findings to the department.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 293, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-2-811. Penalty — remedies. (1) A person who establishes or maintains a program or assists in conducting or maintaining a program without first obtaining a license from the department as provided for in this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine not to exceed $500.

(2) (a) If the department is advised or has reason to believe that a program is operating without a license, it shall make an investigation to ascertain the facts. If the department finds that the program is being or has been operated without a license, it may report the results of its investigation to the attorney general or the county attorney of the county where the program is being operated for prosecution and request that an injunction be issued against the program until a license is issued.

(b) The department may institute any action necessary to enforce compliance with this part or any order or rule of the department under this part or to obtain a judicial interpretation of any of the foregoing.

(c) The department may, by its own attorney, any county attorney, or the attorney general, initiate an action in the justice's court, city court, municipal court, or district court of the appropriate jurisdiction and be represented by that representative on appeal to the district court and supreme court of Montana, as applicable.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 293, L. 2019.

Part 9
Early Intervention Services

52-2-901. Evaluation and assessment of language development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children — exception — report. (1) In providing early intervention services for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families pursuant to Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1431, et seq., the department and the office of public instruction shall provide a list of tools for qualified personnel and educators to use in evaluating and assessing the language development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. The tools must be selected from the list submitted by the language development advisory committee pursuant to 52-2-904.

(2) A tool:

(a) must be in a format that shows the stages of language development for American sign language or English;

(b) must be used by qualified personnel and educators to track the development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children's expressive and receptive language acquisition and developmental stages toward effective communication;

(c) must be selected from existing instruments or assessments used to assess the development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through 8 years of age; and

(d) must be appropriate, in both content and administration, for use with deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (8), the tools must be used, as part of the assessment required by federal law, by a child's individualized family service plan or individualized education program, as applicable, to track the child's progress and to establish or modify the child's individualized family service plan or individualized education program.

(4) Each child's language development must be assessed:

(a) every 6 months from birth until the child reaches 3 years of age; and

(b) annually from 3 years of age until the child reaches 9 years of age.

(5) If a deaf or hard-of-hearing child does not progress through established benchmarks in expressive and receptive language skills as measured by one of the educator tools or assessments selected pursuant to this section or by the existing instrument used to assess the development

of children with disabilities, the child's individualized family service plan or individualized education program team must:

(a) explain in detail the reasons the child is not meeting the language developmental milestones or progressing towards them; and

(b) recommend specific strategies, services, and programs that may be provided to assist the child's success in effective communication.

(6) (a) The department shall provide the list of tools selected pursuant to this part to providers of early intervention services to track the language development of the deaf and hard-of-hearing children to whom the provider is providing services.

(b) The office of public instruction shall provide a list of tools to educators or providers of school-based services to track the language development of a deaf or hard-of-hearing child receiving services.

(7) (a) The department and the office of public instruction shall each prepare an annual report, using existing data that is reported in compliance with federal requirements for children receiving Part B and Part C services, regarding language development in deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through 8 years of age relative to their peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing.

(b) The report must include, as applicable to each agency:

(i) the total number of children receiving Part B and Part C services;

(ii) the total number of children assessed for language development;

(iii) the languages in which children were assessed and the number of children assessed in each language;

(iv) the number of children who were and were not within age-appropriate development ranges based on their chronological age;

(v) information on how the ratings included in the report were developed;

(vi) for each assessment conducted, the tool that was used for the assessment; and

(vii) the number of assessment proctors whose qualifications as established by the producer of the assessment tool were verified by both the parent or guardian and the department or the office of public instruction.

(c) Each agency shall make its report available on its website along with the name and contact information of the person who prepared the report.

(8) A parent pursuing an indigenous language for a child may opt out of the evaluation and assessment required under this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 521, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 521, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

52-2-902. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "American sign language" means visual American sign language, tactile American sign language, or protactile American sign language.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "English" means spoken English, written English, or English with or without the use of visual supplements, cued speech, or manually coded English.

(4) "Language" means the use of American sign language or English.

(5) "Language developmental milestones" means milestones of development aligned with the existing state instruments used to meet the requirements of 20 U.S.C. 1414(b) for the assessment of children from birth through 8 years of age.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 521, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 521, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

52-2-903. Parent resource on language developmental milestones — criteria — distribution — timeline for development. (1) The department and the office of public instruction shall collaborate to select language developmental milestones from existing standardized norms to develop a resource for parents to use in monitoring the expressive and receptive language acquisition of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

(2) The parent resource must:

(a) include the language developmental milestones developed in accordance with subsection (4);

(b) be appropriate, in both content and administration, for use with deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth through 8 years of age who use American sign language, English, or both;

(c) present the language developmental milestones in terms of the typical development of all children by age range;

(d) be written for clarity and ease of use by parents;

(e) be aligned with:

(i) the department's existing infant, toddler, and preschool guidelines;

(ii) the existing instruments used to assess the development of children with disabilities pursuant to federal law; and

(iii) the state standards in English language arts;

(f) make clear that a parent has the right to select a spoken language, a signed language, or both, as the language to be used for the child's language acquisition and developmental milestones;

(g) make clear that the parent resource is not a formal assessment of language development and that a parent's observations of a child may differ from formal assessment data presented at a meeting to discuss an individualized family service plan or individualized education program;

(h) make clear that a parent may bring the parent resource to an individualized family service plan or individualized education program meeting to share the parent's observations about the child's development; and

(i) include fair, balanced, and comprehensive information about languages, communication modes, and available services and programs.

(3) The department and the office of public instruction shall disseminate the parent resource on their websites.

(4) (a) (i) On or before March 1, 2024, the department and the office of public instruction shall provide the language development advisory committee provided for in 52-2-904 with a list of existing language developmental milestones from existing standardized norms. Each agency shall provide any relevant information it holds regarding the language developmental milestones for possible inclusion in the parent resource.

(ii) The language developmental milestones must be aligned with the agencies' existing infant, toddler, and preschool guidelines, the existing instrument used to assess the development of children with disabilities pursuant to federal law, and the state standards in English language arts.

(b) On or before June 1, 2024, the advisory committee shall recommend language developmental milestones to be selected for the parent resource.

(c) On or before June 30, 2024, the department and the office of public instruction shall inform the advisory committee of language developmental milestones selected for inclusion in the parent resource.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 521, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

52-2-904. *(Temporary)* **Language development advisory committee.** (1) There is a language development advisory committee consisting of at least 10 but no more than 15 volunteers selected collaboratively by the director of the department and the superintendent of public instruction from among names submitted by statewide associations representing deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals and families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

(2) The advisory committee must include, to the extent possible:

(a) a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and uses both American sign language and English;

(b) a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and uses only spoken English, with or without visual supplements;

(c) a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and has one or more co-occurring disabilities;

(d) a representative of the Montana school for the deaf and blind who provides outreach and is fluent in both American sign language and English;

(e) a representative of the department;

(f) a representative of the office of public instruction;

(g) a speech-language pathologist;

(h) a pediatric audiologist; and

(i) at least four members from among the following:

(i) an expert who researches language outcomes for deaf and hard-of-hearing children who use American sign language and English;

(ii) a credentialed teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students with expertise in curriculum and instruction in American sign language and English;

(iii) a credentialed teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students with expertise in curriculum and instruction in spoken English, with or without visual supplements;

(iv) an advocate from a statewide association that represents the deaf who advocates for teaching using both American sign language and English;

(v) an early intervention specialist who works with deaf and hard-of-hearing infants and toddlers using both American sign language and English;

(vi) a credentialed teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students with expertise in American sign language and English language assessments;

(vii) a representative from a parent training information center;

(viii) a representative from an association of interpreters who provide services to support the communication needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students in educational settings; or

(ix) a psychologist with expertise in assessing deaf and hard-of-hearing children who is fluent in American sign language and English.

(3) In selecting members, the director of the department and the superintendent shall ensure that:

(a) at least two and up to six of the members are deaf or hard of hearing, with preference given, when appointing members with equal credentials, to deaf and hard-of-hearing members in order to include the greatest number of deaf and hard-of-hearing members possible; and

(b) the membership is balanced among people who personally, professionally, or parentally use the dual languages of American sign language and English and members who personally, professionally, or parentally use only spoken English.

(4) The committee shall:

(a) advise the department and the office of public instruction on the selection of language developmental milestones for children who are deaf or hard of hearing that are equivalent to milestones for children who are not deaf or hard of hearing, for inclusion in the parent resource developed pursuant to 52-2-903;

(b) make recommendations on the selection and administration of provider or educator tools or assessments selected pursuant to 52-2-901;

(c) advise the department or the office of public instruction on how the content and administration of the existing instruments used to assess the development of children with disabilities correlate to assessing the language development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children to ensure the appropriate use of the instrument with deaf and hard-of-hearing children;

(d) make recommendations on unbiased and comprehensive materials to add to the parent resource; and

(e) make recommendations regarding future research to improve the measurement of the progress of deaf and hard-of-hearing children in language development.

(5) The committee shall meet by means of videoconference only at least four times a year.

(6) Committee members are not entitled to compensation for their services other than any compensation provided by their employers.

(7) The committee is attached to the department for administrative purposes. The department shall provide staff support to the committee. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 8, Ch. 521, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 521, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 521, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Termination: Section 8, Ch. 521, L. 2023, provided: "[Section 2] [52-2-904] terminates June 30, 2025."

CHAPTER 3
ADULT SERVICES

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52-3-815. Evidence of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation to be gathered and submitted.
52-3-816 through 52-3-820 reserved.
52-3-821. Admissibility of evidence.
52-3-822 through 52-3-824 reserved.
52-3-825. Penalties.

Chapter Cross-References

Mature Defensive Driving Act, 33-16-221 through 33-16-225.

Part 1
Problems of Aging

Part Cross-References

Office of Aging — Advisory Council on Aging, 2-15-2206.
Accessibility of polling places, Title 13, ch. 3, part 2.

52-3-101. Functions of department of public health and human services. The department of public health and human services shall:

(1) consult with and advise organized efforts by communities, organizations, associations, and groups that are working toward any forms of assistance to problems of aging;

(2) study and identify problems of aging;

(3) review existing programs for the aging and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature for improvements in the programs;

(4) encourage the sponsorship of community projects which will seek to make optimum use of the time and talents of retired persons;

(5) coordinate, through area councils on aging, the delivery of community-based care, including but not limited to home health care, homemaker services, foster home care, nutrition, transportation, winterization, information and referral, and recreation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 12, L. 1967; Sec. 82-3504, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-2001 by Sec. 43, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 665, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-101, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 353, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adult protective service teams, 52-3-805.
Community-based long-term care facilities — powers and duties of Department, 53-6-402.

52-3-102. Grants and gifts to department. The department of public health and human services may receive on behalf of the state any grant from the federal government or any grant or gift from any source and accept the grant or gift so that the title will pass to the state. All grants, grants-in-aid, or gifts must be deposited with the state treasurer and must be continuously available to the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 73, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 12, L. 1967; Sec. 82-3505, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-2002 by Sec. 44, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2302; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-102, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 354, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-3-103. Designation of area agencies. (1) The department of public health and human services may designate as an area agency in a geographical area an entity that demonstrates its ability to:

(a) develop and administer an area plan for a comprehensive and coordinated system of services; and

(b) serve as the advocate and focal point for older persons in the planning and service area.

(2) An entity may be but is not limited to:

(a) an established office on aging that operates within the geographical area;

(b) an office or agency of a unit of general purpose local government, except a local office of public assistance;

(c) any combination of offices or units of general purpose local governments; or

(d) any other public or private, nonprofit agency, except a regional or local agency of the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-103, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-103 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 355, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 435, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Older Americans Act planning and service areas — state plan on aging, Title 52, ch. 3, part 4.

52-3-104 through 52-3-110 reserved.

52-3-111. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 2021.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 638, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-111, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-111 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 356, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-3-112 through 52-3-114 reserved.

52-3-115. Older Montanans trust fund. (1) There is an older Montanans trust fund within the permanent fund type. The trust fund is subject to legislative transfer and appropriation as provided in this section.

(2) The money in the fund may be used to create new, innovative services or to expand existing services for the benefit of Montana residents 60 years of age or older that will enable those Montanans to live an independent lifestyle in the least restrictive setting and will promote the dignity of and respect for those Montanans. The interest and income produced by the trust fund and appropriated to the department by the legislature is intended to increase services referred to in this subsection and not to supplant other sources of revenue for those programs in the trended traditional level, as used in 53-6-1201, of appropriations for those services.

(3) The department may accept contributions and gifts for the trust fund in money or other forms, and when accepted, the contributions and gifts must be deposited in the trust fund.

(4) Interest and income earned on money in the trust fund must be retained within the fund.

(5) Ninety percent of the interest earned on the trust fund may be appropriated for the programs specified in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 312, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 375, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 393, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Part 2
Protective Services

52-3-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Protective Services Act for Vulnerable Adults".

History: En. 71-1914 by Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1914; Sec. 53-5-201, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-201 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Protective services" means emergency services that are provided in a coordinated effort by the department to a vulnerable adult in order to prevent or terminate the abuse, neglect, exploitation, intimidation, or abandonment of the vulnerable adult.

(3) "Vulnerable adult" has the meaning provided for in 52-3-803.

History: En. 71-1915 by Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1915; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-202, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-202 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 357, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 12, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-203. Purpose. To ensure that vulnerable adults in the state are afforded the opportunity to receive protective services and to implement certain provisions of the federal government's Title XX, Social Services Amendments of 1972, the legislature declares that the department is the public agency responsible for providing protective services.

History: En. 71-1916 by Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1916; Sec. 53-5-203, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-203 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 13, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-204. Duties of department. The department is responsible for acting on requests for protective services from vulnerable adults or from relatives, friends, or other reputable persons requesting the services on behalf of a vulnerable adult.

History: En. 71-1917 by Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1917; Sec. 53-5-204, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-204 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 14, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-205. Departmental authority. The department may implement a program for protective services by establishing appropriate rules which are not inconsistent with the department's activities.

History: En. 71-1918 by Sec. 5, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1918; Sec. 53-5-205, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-205 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-3-206. Annual reports. The department shall make annual reports on the number of people served by this part and the type of protective services made available to the vulnerable adults of Montana.

History: En. 71-1919 by Sec. 6, Ch. 232, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1919; Sec. 53-5-206, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-206 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 15, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-207. Protective services not creating guardianship or conservatorship. (1) The provision of protective services does not create a guardianship or conservatorship relationship between the department and the vulnerable adult.

(2) The department may not provide protective services that impose a legal limitation or restriction on a vulnerable adult:

(a) except emergency protective services provided under 52-3-804; or

(b) unless the department has been appointed legal guardian for the vulnerable adult under the provisions of Title 72, chapter 5, part 3.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 343, L. 1981; Sec. 53-5-207, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-207 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 16, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Part 3
Adult Foster Family Care
(Repealed)

52-3-301. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. 71-2303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2303; Sec. 53-5-301, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-301 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-3-302. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. 71-2304 by Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2304; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 665, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-302, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-302 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-3-303. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. 71-2305 by Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2305; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 665, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 102, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-303, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-303 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-3-304. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. 71-2306 by Sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2306; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1979; Sec. 53-5-304, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-304 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991.

52-3-305. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. 71-2307 by Sec. 5, Ch. 364, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2307; Sec. 53-5-305, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-305 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1993.

52-3-306 through 52-3-310 reserved.

52-3-311. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-311, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-311 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-3-312. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 102, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-312, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-312 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-313. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 102, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-313, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-313 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-314. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 366, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 102, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-314, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-314 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

Part 4
State Plan on Aging

Part Cross-References

Area agencies for aging services, 52-3-103.

52-3-401. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Older Americans Act" means the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 3001, et seq.

(3) "Planning and service area" means a geographic area of the state that is designated for purposes of planning, development, delivery, and overall administration of services under the Older Americans Act.

(4) "Services to older adults" means those services the department administers pursuant to the Older Americans Act.

(5) "State plan" means a plan developed by the department to coordinate and administer delivery of services under the Older Americans Act.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 645, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-601, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-401 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 359, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 17, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 17, L. 2023. Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

52-3-402. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to grant the department authority to develop and administer the state plan on aging, to coordinate services to older adults pursuant to the Older Americans Act, and to establish or redesignate planning and service areas pursuant to section 305 of that act. It is the intent of the legislature that the number of planning and service areas be limited so that unnecessary administrative costs are eliminated.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 645, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-602, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-402 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 17, L. 2023. Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

52-3-403. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 17, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 645, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-603, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-403 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-404. State plan on aging. The department may administer and develop the state plan on aging.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 645, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-604, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-404 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-405. Designation of planning and service areas. (1) On or before October 1, 1983, and every 4 years following, the department shall redesignate the planning and service areas it utilizes for services to older adults.

(2) The department shall fix the number of planning and service areas at no less than 7 and no more than 10.

(3) Planning and service areas must follow recognized county boundaries and include Indian reservations located within the designated planning and service area.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 645, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-605, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-405 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 17, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 17, L. 2023. Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

52-3-406. Departmental rules. The department shall adopt rules to administer and implement this part.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 645, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-606, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-406 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-3-407 through 52-3-409 reserved.

52-3-410. Achieving accountability. (1) The department shall achieve accountability in providing quality services in a cost-effective manner by:

(a) establishing goals, responsibilities, and performance expectations for goals in providing services to older adults and to older Montanans as provided in Title 52, chapter 3, parts 1, 4, and 5;

(b) requiring periodic reporting of performance or progress toward stated goals by departmental programs for aging services and area agencies on aging;

(c) establishing a continual process for the evaluation of all functions, the review of the evaluations, and the followup required to correct any deficiencies; and

(d) providing for feedback on the accountability process.

(2) The department shall adopt rules only as necessary to implement the goals, responsibilities, performance expectations, reporting periods, and evaluation process to be followed.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 2023. Amendment effective February 23, 2023.

Part 5
Montana Older Americans Act

Part Cross-References

Montana Access to Food and Nutrition Act, Title 50, ch. 49, part 1.

52-3-501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Older Americans Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-701, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-501 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-502. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Older Montanan" means a resident of this state who is at least 60 years of age.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 83, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-702, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-502 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 360, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

52-3-503. Purpose and policy. (1) The legislature finds that older Montanans constitute a valuable resource of this state and that their competence, experience, and wisdom must be used more effectively for the benefit of all Montanans.

(2) The legislature further finds that a complete range of services is not available in all areas of the state and that many Montanans lack access to the services that are available.

(3) The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state, subject to available funding, to provide a wide range of coordinated services to enable older Montanans to maintain an independent lifestyle, avoid unnecessary institutional care, and live in dignity.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature that available federal, state, regional, and local resources be used to strengthen the economic, social, and general well-being of older Montanans and that the state:

(a) develop appropriate programs for older Montanans;

(b) coordinate and integrate all levels of service, with emphasis on the whole person; and

(c) promote alternative forms of service that will create options for older Montanans.

(5) The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state to ensure accountability, as provided in 52-3-410, in providing quality services in a cost-effective manner.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 67, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-703, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-503 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 435, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2009.**

52-3-504. Services to be provided. Subject to available funding, the department, in conjunction with other state, local, and private agencies and organizations, shall identify and may provide for older Montanans, in addition to existing services:

(1) a directory of available services;

(2) transportation that provides access to services;

(3) housing, nutrition, education, homemaker, escort, respite, hospice, and other programs that facilitate self-care;

(4) physical and mental health care, including inpatient and outpatient services, screening, appliances and supplies, and home health care;

(5) placement in adult day care, foster care, personal care, supervisory care, and nursing homes;

(6) protective advocacy and legal programs;

(7) job training, job development, and income maintenance;

(8) adult education; and

(9) training and research in aging.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 67, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-704, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-504 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 435, L. 1999.**

52-3-505. Role of department. The department shall develop a plan to coordinate the services identified in 52-3-504, facilitate cooperation among agencies, avoid duplication, and increase efficiency.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 67, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-705, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-505 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-506. Coordination with federal legislation. Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent the department from complying with the rules and regulations promulgated by the U.S. department of health and human services pursuant to the "Older Americans Act of 1965", as amended.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 67, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-706, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-506 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

Part 6
Ombudsman Services

52-3-601. Purpose. The legislature finds that many disabled and elderly Montana citizens reside in long-term care facilities in Montana and because of their isolated and vulnerable condition are dependent on others for care and protection. It is the intent of the legislature that, contingent on receipt of federal funds for the purpose, the office of legal and long-term care ombudsman services:

(1) monitor the quality of care and life for residents of long-term care facilities;

(2) develop and coordinate legal services for elderly citizens; and

(3) through necessary investigations, reports, and corrective action, ensure that a good quality of care and life be maintained for residents of long-term care facilities.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-801, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-601 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-3-602. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Local ombudsman" means a person officially designated by the long-term care ombudsman to act as the long-term care ombudsman's local representative.

(2) "Long-term care facility" means a facility or part of a facility that provides skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or personal care, as these terms are defined in 50-5-101.

(3) "Long-term care ombudsman" means the individual appointed under 42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(12) to fulfill the federal requirement that the state provide an advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-802, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-602 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1900, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

52-3-603. Office of legal and long-term care ombudsman services. Contingent on receipt of federal funds for the purpose, there is an office of legal and long-term care ombudsman services in the department of public health and human services. As required by the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3001, et seq.), and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, the office:

(1) serves as an advocate for Montana citizens residing in long-term care facilities, regardless of their age or source of payment for care, to ensure that their rights are protected, that they receive quality care, and that they reside in a safe environment; and

(2) coordinates legal services for the elderly.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 223, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 83, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-803, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-603 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 361, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-3-604. Access to long-term care facilities. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the long-term care ombudsman or local ombudsman must have access without advance notice to any long-term care facility, including private access to any resident, for the purpose of meeting with residents, investigating and resolving complaints, and advising residents on their rights.

(2) Access must be granted to the long-term care ombudsman or local ombudsman during normal visiting hours and to the long-term care ombudsman at any time. A local ombudsman may have access after normal visiting hours with approval, directions, and oversight of the long-term care ombudsman when necessary to perform the duties described in 52-3-603.

(3) The ombudsman shall carry out the duties described in 52-3-603 in a manner that is least disruptive to resident care and activities.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 223, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-804, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-604 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 2007.

52-3-605. Enforcement of access. (1) A person who violates the provisions of 52-3-604 is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation. The department of public health and human services or, upon request of that department, the county attorney of the county in which the long-term care facility in question is located may petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. Money collected as a civil penalty must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) The department of public health and human services or, upon request of that department, the county attorney of the county in which the long-term care facility in question is located may bring an action to enjoin a violation of any provision of 52-3-604 in addition to or exclusive of the remedy in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 223, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-805, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-605 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 362, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Part 7 reserved

Part 8
Montana Vulnerable Adult Prevention of Abuse Act

52-3-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Vulnerable Adult Prevention of Abuse Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-501, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-801 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 17, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-802. Legislative findings and purpose. The legislature finds that a need exists to provide for cooperation among law enforcement officials and agencies, courts, and state and county agencies providing human services in preventing the abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation of Montana's vulnerable adults through the identification, reporting, and prosecution of acts of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-502, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-802 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 18, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-803. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abuse" means:

(a) the infliction of physical or mental injury;

(b) the deprivation of food, shelter, clothing, or services necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of a vulnerable adult without lawful authority. A declaration made pursuant to 50-9-103 constitutes lawful authority.

(c) the causing of personal degradation of a vulnerable adult in a place where the vulnerable adult has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Exploitation" means:

(a) the unreasonable use of a vulnerable adult or of a power of attorney, conservatorship, or guardianship with regard to a vulnerable adult in order to obtain control of or to divert to the advantage of another the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of or interest in the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property by means of deception, duress, menace, fraud, undue influence, or intimidation with the intent or result of permanently depriving the vulnerable adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of or interest in the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property;

(b) an act taken by a person who has the trust and confidence of a vulnerable adult to obtain control of or to divert to the advantage of another the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of or interest in the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property by means of deception, duress, menace, fraud, undue influence, or intimidation with the intent or result of permanently depriving the vulnerable adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of or interest in the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property;

(c) the unreasonable use of a vulnerable adult or of a power of attorney, conservatorship, or guardianship with regard to a vulnerable adult done in the course of an offer or sale of insurance or securities in order to obtain control of or to divert to the advantage of another the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property by means of deception, duress, menace, fraud, undue influence, or intimidation with the intent or result of permanently depriving the vulnerable adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property.

(4) "Incapacitated person" has the meaning provided in 72-5-101.

(5) "Long-term care facility" has the meaning provided in 50-5-101.

(6) "Mental injury" means an identifiable and substantial impairment of a person's intellectual or psychological functioning or well-being.

(7) "Neglect" means the failure of a person who has assumed legal responsibility or a contractual obligation for caring for a vulnerable adult or who has voluntarily assumed responsibility for the a vulnerable adult's care, including an employee of a public or private residential institution, facility, home, or agency, to provide food, shelter, clothing, or services necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of the vulnerable adult.

(8) "Personal degradation" means publication or distribution of a printed or electronic photograph or video of a vulnerable adult when the person publishing or distributing intends to demean or humiliate the vulnerable adult or knows or reasonably should know that the publication or distribution would demean or humiliate a reasonable person. Personal degradation does not include the recording and dissemination of images or video for treatment, diagnosis, regulatory compliance, or law enforcement purposes, as part of an investigation, or in accordance with a facility or program's confidentiality policy and release of information or consent policy.

(9) "Physical injury" means death, permanent or temporary disfigurement, or impairment of any bodily organ or function.

(10) "Sexual abuse" means the commission of sexual assault, sexual intercourse without consent, indecent exposure, deviate sexual conduct, incest, or sexual abuse of children as described in Title 45, chapter 5, part 5, and Title 45, chapter 8, part 2.

(11) "Vulnerable adult" means a person who:

(a) is 60 years of age or older; or

(b) is 18 years of age or older and:

(i) is a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits or restricts the person's ability to provide for their own care or protection; or

(ii) has a developmental disability as defined in 53-20-102.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 668, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-503, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-803 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 716, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 493, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 225, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 19, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-804. Duties of department. (1) The department shall investigate reports of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation received pursuant to 52-3-811(1)(a).

(2) The department shall prepare an annual report of the information obtained pursuant to the reporting requirement of this part.

(3) The department shall, when appropriate, provide protective services under Title 52, chapter 3, part 2, for a vulnerable adult alleged to have been abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited.

(4) If a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited pursuant to this part or the vulnerable adult's caretaker refuses to allow a representative of the department entrance to the premises for the purpose of investigating a report made pursuant to 52-3-811(1)(a), the district court in the county where the vulnerable adult is found may order a law enforcement officer or a department representative to enter the premises to conduct an investigation on finding that there is probable cause to believe that the vulnerable adult is abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited.

(5) If a representative of the department has reasonable grounds to believe that a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited is suffering from abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation that presents a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury, the department may:

(a) provide voluntary protective services as provided in subsection (3); or

(b) if the department representative has reasonable grounds to believe that the vulnerable adult is an incapacitated person, provide emergency protective services as follows:

(i) arrange or facilitate an appropriate emergency protective service placement;

(ii) transport or arrange for the transport of the vulnerable adult to the appropriate placement;

(iii) not later than 2 judicial days following placement of the vulnerable adult, either:

(A) provide voluntary protective services as provided under subsection (3); or

(B) petition the district court to act as temporary guardian or appoint a temporary guardian as provided in 72-5-317.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-504, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-804 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 716, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 363, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 20, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-805. Adult protective service teams. (1) The county attorney or the department shall convene one or more temporary or permanent interdisciplinary adult protective service teams. The teams shall assist in assessing the needs of, formulating and monitoring a treatment plan for, and coordinating services to vulnerable adults who are victims of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The supervisor of the adult protective services unit of the department or the department's designee shall serve as the team's coordinator. Members must include an adult protection specialist, a member of a local law enforcement agency, a representative of the medical profession, and a county attorney or the county attorney's designee, who is an attorney.

Members may include other appropriate persons designated by the county attorney or the supervisor of the adult protective services unit of the department.

(2) When the team considers a matter involving an adult with developmental disabilities in the care of a person providing developmental disabilities services, the team must also include a provider of developmental disability services other than the provider involved in the matter under review. The team shall make a report to the county attorney that contains a recommendation concerning any criminal prosecution to be brought pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 662, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-5-505, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-805 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 364, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 21, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Office of County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.
Local government law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.
Licensing of medical doctors, Title 37, ch. 3.
Licensing of social workers, Title 37, ch. 22.
Local offices of public assistance, Title 53, ch. 2, part 3.

52-3-806 through 52-3-810 reserved.

52-3-811. Reports. (1) When the professionals and other persons listed in subsection (3) know or have reasonable cause to suspect that a vulnerable adult known to them in their professional or official capacities has been subjected to abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation, they shall:

(a) if the vulnerable adult is not a resident of a long-term care facility, report the matter to:

(i) the department or its local affiliate; or

(ii) the county attorney of the county in which the vulnerable adult resides or in which the acts that are the subject of the report occurred;

(b) if the vulnerable adult is a resident of a long-term care facility, report the matter to the long-term care ombudsman appointed under the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(12) and to the department. The department shall investigate the matter pursuant to its authority in 50-5-204 and 52-3-804 and, if it finds any allegations of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation contained in the report to be substantially true, forward a copy of the report to the county attorney as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii).

(2) If the report required in subsection (1) involves an act or omission of the department that may be construed as abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation, a copy of the report may not be sent to the department but must be sent instead to the county attorney of the county in which the vulnerable adult resides or in which the acts that are the subject of the report occurred.

(3) Professionals and other persons required to report are:

(a) a physician, resident, intern, professional or practical nurse, physician assistant, or member of a hospital staff engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;

(b) an osteopath, dentist, denturist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, medical examiner, coroner, or any other health or mental health professional;

(c) an ambulance attendant;

(d) an employee of the state, a county, or a municipality assisting a vulnerable adult in the application for or receipt of public assistance payments or services;

(e) a person who maintains or is employed by a roominghouse, retirement home or complex, nursing home, group home, adult foster care home, adult day-care center, or assisted living facility or an agency or individual that provides home health services or personal care in the home;

(f) an attorney, unless the attorney acquired knowledge of the facts required to be reported from a client and the attorney-client privilege applies;

(g) a peace officer or other law enforcement official;

(h) a person providing services to a vulnerable adult pursuant to a contract with a state or federal agency;

(i) an employee of the department while in the conduct of the employee's duties; and

(j) a conservator, legal guardian, or representative payee.

(4) Except as provided under 45 CFR 1324.19, a long-term care ombudsman who is a professional or other person listed in subsection (3) shall be exempt from mandatory reporting of abuse, neglect, and exploitation when knowledge of the facts required to be reported are acquired while the long-term care ombudsman is acting in the ombudsman's official capacity as an ombudsman.

(5) Any other persons or entities may, but are not required to, submit a report in accordance with subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 548, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-511, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-811 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 421, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 365, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 22, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Office of County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.
Local government law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.
Licensing of medical doctors, Title 37, ch. 3.
Licensing of social workers, Title 37, ch. 22.
Long-term care facilities — licensing, Title 50, ch. 5, part 2.
Local offices of public assistance, Title 53, ch. 2, part 3.

52-3-812. Content of report. (1) The report required by 52-3-811 may be made in writing or orally, by telephone, in person, or electronically through the department. A person who receives an oral report shall prepare it in writing as soon as possible.

(2) The report referred to under this section must contain:

(a) the names and addresses of the vulnerable adult and the person, if any, responsible for the vulnerable adult's care;

(b) the name and address, if available, of the person who is alleged to have abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited the vulnerable adult;

(c) to the extent known, the vulnerable adult's age and the nature and extent of the abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including any evidence of previous injuries, abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation sustained by the vulnerable adult and any evidence of prior instances of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation of other vulnerable adults committed by the person alleged to have committed abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation; and

(d) the name and address of the person making the report.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-512, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-812 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 23, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-813. Confidentiality. (1) The case records of the department, its local affiliate, the county attorney, and the court concerning actions taken under this part and all reports made pursuant to 52-3-811 must be kept confidential except as provided by this section. For the purposes of this section, the term "case records" includes records of an investigation of a report of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(2) The records and reports required to be kept confidential by subsection (1) may be disclosed, on written request, to the following persons or entities in this or any other state:

(a) a physician who is caring for a vulnerable adult who the physician reasonably believes was abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited;

(b) a legal guardian or conservator of the vulnerable adult if the identity of the person who made the report is protected and the legal guardian or conservator is not the person suspected of the abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation;

(c) the vulnerable adult named in the report as allegedly being abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited if that person is not an incapacitated person;

(d) any person engaged in bona fide research if the person alleged in the report to have committed the abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation is later convicted of an offense constituting abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation and if the identity of the vulnerable adult who is the subject of the report is not disclosed to the researcher;

(e) an adult protective service team. Members of the team are required to keep information about the subject individuals confidential.

(f) an authorized representative of a provider of services to a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited if:

(i) the department and the provider are parties to a contested case proceeding under Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, resulting from action by the department adverse to the license of the provider and if information contained in the records or reports of the department is relevant to the case;

(ii) disclosure to the provider is determined by the department to be necessary to protect an interest of a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited; or

(iii) the person is carrying out background screening or employment-related or volunteer-related screening of current or prospective employees or volunteers who have or may have unsupervised contact with a vulnerable adult through employment or volunteer activities if the disclosure is limited to information that indicates a risk to a vulnerable adult posed by the employee or volunteer, as determined by the department. A request for information under this subsection must be made in writing.

(g) an employee of the department if disclosure of the record or report is necessary for administration of a program designed to benefit a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited;

(h) an authorized representative of a guardianship program approved by the department if the department determines that disclosure to the program or to a person designated by the program is necessary for the proper provision of guardianship services to a vulnerable adult alleged to be abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited;

(i) protection and advocacy systems authorized under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 794e, 42 U.S.C. 10805, or 42 U.S.C. 15043;

(j) the news media if disclosure is limited to confirmation of factual information regarding how the case was handled and does not violate the privacy rights of the vulnerable adult or alleged perpetrator of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as determined by the department;

(k) a coroner or medical examiner who is determining the cause of death of a vulnerable adult;

(l) a person about whom a report has been made and that person's attorney with respect to relevant records pertaining to that person only without disclosing the identity of the person who made the report or any other person whose safety might be endangered through disclosure;

(m) an agency, including a probation or parole agency, that is legally responsible for the supervision of an alleged perpetrator of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult; and

(n) a department, agency, or organization, including a federal agency, military reservation, or tribal organization, that is legally authorized to receive, inspect, or investigate reports of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult and that meets the disclosure criteria contained in this section.

(3) The records and reports required to be kept confidential by subsection (1) must be disclosed, upon request, to the following persons or entities in this or any other state:

(a) a county attorney or other law enforcement official who requires the information in connection with an investigation of a violation of this part;

(b) a court that has determined, in camera, that public disclosure of the report, data, information, or record is necessary for the determination of an issue before it;

(c) a grand jury upon its determination that the report, data, information, or record is necessary in the conduct of its official business.

(4) If the person who is reported to have abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited a vulnerable adult is the holder of a license, permit, or certificate issued by the department of labor

and industry under the provisions of Title 37 or issued by any other entity of state government, the report may be submitted to the entity that issued the license, permit, or certificate.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 662, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-513, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-813 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 366, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 12, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 24, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right to privacy, Art. II, Sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Libel and slander, Title 27, ch. 1, part 8.
Guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

52-3-814. Immunity from civil and criminal liability. (1) A person who makes a report required or authorized to be made under 52-3-811 is immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as a result of the report unless the report is false in any material respect and the person acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

(2) A person who provides information or who uses information obtained pursuant to 52-3-813(2) to refuse to hire or to discharge an employee, volunteer, or other person who through their employment or volunteer activities may have unsupervised contact with a vulnerable adult is immune from civil liability unless the person providing or using the information acts in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 623, L. 1983; Sec. 53-5-514, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-814 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 12, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 25, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Freedom of speech, Art. II, sec. 7, Mont. Const.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.

52-3-815. Evidence of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation to be gathered and submitted. (1) A person or agency receiving a report of suspected abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation under 52-3-811 shall prepare a written description of the conditions regarded as evidence of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation and may, with the consent of an allegedly abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited vulnerable adult or without consent of the vulnerable adult if it appears that the vulnerable adult is an incapacitated person, take or cause to be taken photographs of an area of trauma visible on the body of the allegedly abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited vulnerable adult and regarded as evidence of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(2) A physician required to report under 52-3-811 may, with the consent of an allegedly abused, sexually abused, neglected, or exploited vulnerable adult or without consent of the vulnerable adult if it appears that the person is an incapacitated person, require x-rays or other appropriate medical tests or procedures that would, in the professional opinion of the physician, assist in establishing evidence related to the allegation of abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(3) Evidence authorized to be gathered under this section must be submitted with the report required under 52-3-811 to the authorities designated in 52-3-811 as soon as possible after submission of the report.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 716, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 12, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 26, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-816 through 52-3-820 reserved.

52-3-821. Admissibility of evidence. In any proceeding resulting from a report made pursuant to the provisions of this part or in any proceeding where the report or its content is sought to be introduced into evidence, the report or its content or any other fact related to the report or to the condition of the vulnerable adult who is the subject of the report may not be excluded on the ground that the matter is or may be the subject of a privilege granted in Title 26, chapter 1, part 8, except the attorney-client privilege granted by 26-1-803.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-521, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-821 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 27, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

52-3-822 through 52-3-824 reserved.

52-3-825. Penalties. (1) A person is guilty of an offense and on conviction is punishable as provided in 46-18-212 if the person purposely or knowingly:

(a) fails to make a report required by 52-3-811;

(b) fails to disclose the contents of a case record or report in violation of 52-3-813;

(c) gives false information to any adult protective services representative, county attorney, or law enforcement officer with the purpose to implicate another person;

(d) reports to adult protective services, the county attorney, or law enforcement authorities an offense or other incident within the person's concern knowing that it did not occur; or

(e) pretends to furnish adult protective services, the county attorney, or law enforcement authorities with information relating to an offense or incident when the person knows that the person has no information relating to the offense.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), a person who purposely or knowingly abuses, sexually abuses, or neglects a vulnerable adult is guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years and be fined an amount not to exceed $10,000, or both.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), a person who negligently abuses a vulnerable adult is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon a first conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(ii) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of the conduct described in subsection (2)(b)(i), the person is guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years and be fined an amount not to exceed $10,000, or both.

(c) (i) A person who causes personal degradation to a vulnerable adult in a place where the vulnerable adult has a reasonable expectation of privacy is, for a first offense, guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or be fined an amount not to exceed $500, or both;

(ii) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of the conduct described in subsection (2)(c)(i), the person is guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years or be fined an amount not to exceed $10,000, or both.

(d) A person 18 years of age or older who has a developmental disability, as defined in 53-20-102, may not be charged under subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c).

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 623, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 668, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 198, L. 1989; Sec. 53-5-525, MCA 1989; redes. 52-3-825 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 167, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 196, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 12, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 28, Ch. 12, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

When no penalty specified — misdemeanor, 46-18-212.

CHAPTER 4
SERVICES TO THE DISABLED

Part 1 — Developmentally Disabled — Protective Services (Repealed)

Part 2 — Physically Disabled — Community Home Licensing

52-4-201. Purpose.
52-4-202. Definitions.
52-4-203. Licensing.
52-4-204. Health and safety standards.
52-4-205. Rulemaking.

Part 1
Developmentally Disabled — Protective Services
(Repealed)

52-4-101. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1901; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-20-401, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-102. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1902; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-20-402, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-103. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 508, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1903; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 343, L. 1981; Sec. 53-20-403, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-103 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-104. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1905; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 343, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-20-405, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-104 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-105. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1906; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 343, L. 1981; Sec. 53-20-406, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-105 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-106. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1908; Sec. 53-20-408, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-106 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-107. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1909; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-20-409, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-107 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-108. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1910(1); amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-20-410, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-108 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-109 reserved.

52-4-110. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1913; Sec. 53-20-413, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-110 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 2
Physically Disabled — Community Home Licensing

Part Cross-References

Services and community homes for the physically disabled, Title 53, ch. 19, part 1.

52-4-201. Purpose. The legislature, in recognition of the needs of persons with severe disabilities and of the desirability of meeting those needs on a community level, establishes in 52-4-201 through 52-4-205 authority for the state to license community homes for persons with severe disabilities. Licensed community homes for persons with severe disabilities are for the purpose of providing residential settings for persons with severe disabilities receiving services funded through state-administered programs who otherwise are unable to live independently and who are determined to be capable of residing in noninstitutional settings.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 330, L. 1989; Sec. 53-19-201, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-201 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-4-202. Definitions. As used in 52-4-201 through 52-4-205, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community home for persons with severe disabilities" means a family-oriented residence that is designed to provide residential services for two to eight persons with severe disabilities and that does not provide skilled or intermediate nursing care. This definition does not preclude the provision of skilled or intermediate nursing care by third-person providers.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Disability" means a permanent physical or mental condition recognized as a disability by Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796, et seq.), as may be amended.

(4) "Severe disability" means a permanent disability that substantially limits major life activity, such as walking, self-care, seeing, hearing, speaking, learning, reasoning, judgment, or memory, and that can be diagnosed by a physician. The term includes the condition of a person with severe disabilities as defined in 53-19-102.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 330, L. 1989; Sec. 53-19-202, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-202 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 368, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

52-4-203. Licensing. (1) A community home for persons with severe disabilities must be licensed annually by the department.

(2) The department may also issue temporary and provisional licenses.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 330, L. 1989; Sec. 53-19-203, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-203 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-4-204. Health and safety standards. (1) A community home for persons with severe disabilities must be certified annually for fire and life safety by the department of justice. The department of justice shall notify the department whenever a community home has been certified or refused certification.

(2) (a) Local health officers shall inspect a community home for persons with severe disabilities to ensure compliance with health and safety standards. If for any reason the local authority cannot complete the inspection in a timely manner, the department of public health and human services may make the inspection to ensure compliance with the standards.

(b) The inspecting health officer shall notify the department whether a community home is or is not in compliance with applicable standards.

(c) A reasonable fee may be charged by health authorities conducting compliance inspections.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 330, L. 1989; Sec. 53-19-204, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-204 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 369, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

52-4-205. Rulemaking. (1) The department shall, for the purpose of licensing, adopt rules to govern administration, operation, and health and safety requirements for community homes for persons with severe disabilities in order to protect rights of residents. The department shall provide for temporary and provisional licensing.

(2) The state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice shall provide advice and recommendations to the department concerning licensing requirements for health and safety.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 330, L. 1989; Sec. 53-19-205, MCA 1989; redes. 52-4-205 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 370, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 449, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Fire prevention and investigation program of Department of Justice, Title 50, ch. 3.

CHAPTER 5
CORRECTIONS

Part 1 — Youthful Offenders

52-5-101. Establishment of correctional facilities — prohibitions — definition.
52-5-102. Control and management of youth correctional facilities.
52-5-103. Cooperative agreements for services with governing body of Indian tribe.
52-5-104. Repealed.
52-5-105. Superintendents to manage facilities.
52-5-106. Curricula at facilities.
52-5-107. Maximum age of commitment.
52-5-108. Medical examination before admission — records required to accompany youth committed.
52-5-109. Transportation costs — arrangement for transportation.
52-5-110. Transfer of child to other facility or institution.
52-5-111. Commutation of sentence to state prison facility and transfer of prisoner to correctional facility.
52-5-112. University aid to residents of schools.

52-5-113. Publication of information to facilitate return of youth leaving correctional facility or program without permission.
52-5-114. Penalty for aiding resident in leaving or not returning to correctional facility.
52-5-115 through 52-5-119 reserved.
52-5-120. Youth industries programs.
52-5-121. Rulemaking authority.
52-5-122 through 52-5-124 reserved.
52-5-125. Repealed.
52-5-126. Conditional release agreement.
52-5-127. Control over youth placed on conditional release.
52-5-128. Detention of youth who violates conditional release or escapes from facility or program.
52-5-129. Repealed.

Chapter Cross-References

Department of Corrections, Title 2, ch. 15, part 23; Title 53, ch. 1, part 2.
Regional detention facilities for youth, 41-5-1804.
Private correctional facilities, Title 53, ch. 30, part 6.

Part 1
Youthful Offenders

52-5-101. Establishment of correctional facilities — prohibitions — definition. (1) The department of corrections, within the annual or biennial budgetary appropriation, may establish, maintain, and operate correctional facilities to provide custody, assessment, care, supervision, treatment, education, rehabilitation, and work and skill development of youth in need of these services who are at least 10 years of age and less than 18 years of age.

(2) A youth alleged or found to be a youth in need of intervention may not be placed in a correctional facility.

(3) When a correctional facility previously used as a secure residential facility for youth is repurposed by the department to provide for the custody, treatment, training, and rehabilitation of other correctional populations, serving the needs of youth populations must have priority if youth population increases sufficiently to justify the department reverting to the previous use of the facility.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1410; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 737, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-202, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 548, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 371, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 231, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction of Youth Court to age 21, 41-5-205.
Transfer of youth to District Court after Youth Court disposition — jurisdiction to age 25, 41-5-208.
Limitations on placement of youth in state youth correctional facility, 41-5-1512.

52-5-102. Control and management of youth correctional facilities. The facilities provided for in 52-5-101 shall exercise their functions under the supervision and general management of the department of corrections. Except where otherwise provided by law, the department by rules shall establish standards of care and policies of admission, transfers, discharge, and conditional release in order to provide adequate care for children and adequate service to the courts. Policies of admission may include criteria for medical examinations required under 52-5-108. The department shall develop special programs within each facility that are adaptable to the particular needs of its operation.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1411; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-203, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 372, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 344, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Disposition of contraband in correctional institution, 53-1-105.

52-5-103. Cooperative agreements for services with governing body of Indian tribe. (1) The department of corrections may enter into agreements with the governing body of an Indian tribe within the state for residential, educational, and evaluation services maintained by the department for children who have been adjudicated delinquent by the tribal court, subject to the provisions of this part and parts 1 and 2 of Title 53, chapter 1.

(2) Any agreement entered into under subsection (1) must also satisfy the requirements of Title 18, chapter 11.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1419; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 309, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-204, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-103 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 373, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 344, L. 2019.**

52-5-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1993; sec. 19, Ch. 579, L. 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1412; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 140, L. 1985; Sec. 53-30-205, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-104 by Code Commissioner, 1991.**

52-5-105. Superintendents to manage facilities. Each facility provided for in 52-5-101 is under the immediate management and control of a superintendent. If the parent or legal guardian of a resident of a facility cannot be located, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may consent to necessary medical treatment for the resident of the facility under the superintendent's management and control.

History: **En. Sec. 46, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2202; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-206, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-105 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1901, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

52-5-106. Curricula at facilities. The academic and vocational curricula in facilities containing academic and vocational training must include academic and vocational subjects that conform to the Montana school accreditation standards set by the board of public education.

History: **En. Sec. 47, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2203; Sec. 53-30-207, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-106 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

School instruction and special programs, Title 20, ch. 7.

52-5-107. Maximum age of commitment. A youth who has attained 18 years of age may not be committed by any youth court to the department of corrections.

History: **En. Sec. 48, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 262, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2204; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-208, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-107 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 374, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 550, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Youth Court — jurisdiction, 41-5-203.
Youth Court — retention of jurisdiction, 41-5-205.

52-5-108. Medical examination before admission — records required to accompany youth committed. (1) Before a youth is admitted for any purpose or for any length of time to the Pine Hills correctional facility or another facility under an order of commitment to the department of corrections, the youth must be examined by a licensed physician assistant, by an advanced practice registered nurse, or by a licensed physician. A youth committed to the Pine Hills correctional facility or the department must be accompanied by the order of commitment, a medical examination report, an adequate social history, and any school records.

(2) The medical examination required under this section must be a current, complete physical examination of the youth.

History: **En. Sec. 49, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2205; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-209, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-108 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 253, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 375, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 232, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 339, L. 2021.**

52-5-109. Transportation costs — arrangement for transportation. (1) Prior to adjudication:

(a) for a youth placed in a facility, other than a correctional facility or a detention facility, the judicial district of the youth court to which the youth has been referred shall pay the cost for transporting the youth to the facility and for any other transportation costs incurred while the youth is in the facility. The district shall pay these costs from its annual allocation provided for in 41-5-130.

(b) for a youth detained in a detention facility, the county of the youth court to which the youth has been referred shall pay the cost for transporting the youth to the facility and for any other transportation costs while the youth is in the facility.

(2) After adjudication:

(a) for a youth placed in a nonsecure facility within or outside the state, the judicial district of the youth court in which the youth was adjudicated shall pay the costs for transporting the youth to and from the facility from its annual allocation established under 41-5-130;

(b) for a youth committed to the department of corrections for placement in an in-state correctional facility or returned to the department for violation of the terms and conditions of the youth's conditional release agreement, the county of the youth court in which the youth was adjudicated shall pay the cost for transporting the youth to the facility. The department shall pay the cost for transporting the youth after the youth is released from the facility or provide other arrangements for transporting the youth.

(c) for a youth placed in an out-of-state correctional facility pursuant to 41-5-355, the department of corrections shall pay the cost for transporting the youth to the facility and the cost for transporting the youth after the youth is released from the facility.

(3) The youth court probation office shall arrange for all transportation to and from an out-of-home placement except when the department of corrections is responsible for transportation costs as provided for in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c).

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2206; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-210, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-109 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 376, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 233, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 54(5), Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 587, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 398, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 344, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

Excessive juvenile population — confinement of juveniles in alternate placements, 41-5-355.

52-5-110. Transfer of child to other facility or institution. The department of corrections, upon recommendation of the superintendent of a facility, may transfer a child resident in one of its correctional facilities to any other facility or institution under the jurisdiction and control of the department or under contract to the department.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2209; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-211, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-110 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 377, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

52-5-111. Commutation of sentence to state prison facility and transfer of prisoner to correctional facility. (1) Upon the application of a person who has not attained 18 years of age who has been sentenced to a state prison facility or upon the application of the youth's parents or guardian, the governor may, after consulting with the department of corrections and with the approval of the board of pardons and parole, commute the sentence by committing the person to the department of corrections for placement in a correctional facility if the person may benefit from programs offered at a correctional facility. Except as provided in subsection (2), the commutation continues in effect until the youth is 18 years of age or until sooner placed or discharged.

(2) If the youth's behavior after being committed to the department of corrections as provided in subsection (1) indicates that the youth is not a proper person to reside at one of the correctional facilities, the governor, after consulting with the department of corrections and with the approval of the board of pardons and parole, may revoke the commutation and return the youth to a state prison facility to serve out the youth's unexpired term, and the time spent by the youth at one of the correctional facilities or while a refugee from one of the correctional facilities may not be credited against the youth's original sentence.

(3) Independent of the commutation of sentence procedures provided for in subsections (1) and (2), on recommendation of the warden and with the approval of the department of corrections, a person under 18 years of age who has been sentenced to a state prison facility and who may benefit from programs offered at a correctional facility may be transferred to any correctional facility under the jurisdiction and control of the department of corrections.

(4) If the youth's behavior after transfer to a correctional facility indicates that the youth might be released on parole or that the youth's sentence might be commuted and the youth be discharged from custody, the superintendent of the facility, with the approval of the department

of corrections, may make an appropriate recommendation to the board of pardons and parole and the governor, who may in their discretion parole the person or commute the youth's sentence.

(5) If the youth's behavior after transfer to a correctional facility indicates that the youth is not a proper person to reside in the facility, upon recommendation of the superintendent and with the approval of the department of corrections, the youth must be returned to a state prison facility to serve out the unexpired term.

History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2210; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 233, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 212, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-212, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-111 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 378, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

52-5-112. University aid to residents of schools. The department of corrections may, on the recommendation of the superintendent, authorize a resident of a correctional facility who has completed high school and who is otherwise eligible to receive up to $800 per year toward the resident's expenses incurred in attending a unit of the Montana university system. The money may be used for transportation, clothing, books, board, and room and must be paid in the same manner as other expenses of the school. The board of regents of higher education may waive fees and tuition for these residents pursuant to 20-25-421. No more than eight residents of each correctional facility may receive these benefits each year. The department shall notify the board of regents before August 1 of each year of the residents that it has designated to receive the benefits for the next school year.

History: En. Sec. 57, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2213; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 170, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-213, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-112 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 379, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 234, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

University System, Title 20, ch. 25.

52-5-113. Publication of information to facilitate return of youth leaving correctional facility or program without permission. The department may publish the name and picture of and the offense and other information relating to a youth who has left a correctional facility or program operated by the department or who is committed to the department and who presents a threat to public safety if the publication is determined by the department to be necessary to facilitate the youth's return and to protect the public.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2211; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-214, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-113 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 380, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 235, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

52-5-114. Penalty for aiding resident in leaving or not returning to correctional facility. (1) A person is guilty of an offense if the person purposely or knowingly:

(a) permits or assists a resident of a correctional facility to leave a facility without permission;

(b) permits or assists a resident's failure to return to a correctional facility from which the resident had permission to leave;

(c) furnishes or attempts to furnish to a resident a tool, weapon, or other article with the intent of aiding the resident to leave without permission or to not return; or

(d) harbors or conceals a resident who has left without permission.

(2) Upon conviction of a violation of subsection (1), a person shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than 6 months or more than 2 years or by a fine not exceeding $1,000, or both.

History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2212; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-215, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-114 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 1902, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Felony defined, 45-2-101.

52-5-115 through 52-5-119 reserved.

52-5-120. Youth industries programs. The department of corrections may:

(1) establish youth industries programs in state correctional facilities that:

(a) assist in the training and rehabilitation of residents who are youth at correctional facilities; and

(b) provide the production or manufacture of products and the rendering of services that may be needed by:

(i) a department or agency of the state of Montana or a unit of local government;

(ii) an agency of the federal government; or

(iii) an office or agency of another state or a political subdivision of another state;

(2) contract with private industry for the sale of goods produced or manufactured at correctional facilities; and

(3) fix the purchase price for goods and services available under the industries program established in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 381, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Prison industries training program — purpose and scope, 53-30-131.

52-5-121. Rulemaking authority. The department of corrections may adopt rules necessary for administration of industries programs authorized in 52-5-120. Rules adopted by the department may include rules regarding:

(1) requirements for participation of youth in industries programs;

(2) the type of training and experience to be provided to youth under these programs;

(3) the type of goods and services to be sold under the industries programs;

(4) contracts with private industry for the sale of goods produced or manufactured at correctional facilities; and

(5) payment of wages to youth working in industries programs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 434, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 382, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-5-122 through 52-5-124 reserved.

52-5-125. Repealed. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 511, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 630, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-225, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-125 by Code Commissioner, 1991.

52-5-126. Conditional release agreement. (1) At least 30 days before a youth is released by the department of corrections from a correctional facility to the supervision, custody, and control of the youth court, the department, youth, and juvenile probation officer assigned to the youth shall develop a conditional release agreement for the youth.

(2) At least 14 days before the youth is released, the department, youth, and juvenile probation officer shall finalize and sign the conditional release agreement. The agreement must contain a statement advising the youth of the youth's rights under 41-5-1430 and the terms and conditions that may result in a revocation of the youth's conditional release.

(3) A conditional release agreement for a youth released from a correctional facility for commitment to a mental health facility pursuant to Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, must remain in effect until the youth court no longer has custody of the youth.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1414(part); amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-226, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-126 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 383, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 344, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Youth Court — retention of jurisdiction, 41-5-205.

52-5-127. Control over youth placed on conditional release. The youth court has control over a youth released by the department of corrections pursuant to a conditional release agreement under 52-5-126 until the youth attains 18 years of age unless the youth is discharged by the youth court before age 18. However, the youth is subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the youth courts of Montana, pursuant to 41-5-205, for acts committed by the youth.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1415; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 212, L. 1989; Sec.

53-30-227, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-127 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 384, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 344, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adult rights, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

52-5-128. Detention of youth who violates conditional release or escapes from facility or program. (1) A juvenile probation officer may detain a youth who allegedly has violated the terms and conditions of the youth's conditional release agreement. A law enforcement officer of the state or a county or a city shall detain a youth who has allegedly violated the terms and conditions of the youth's conditional release agreement upon receipt of a warrant to detain the youth.

(2) The department of corrections may detain a youth who has escaped from a correctional facility or program operated by or under contract with the department. A law enforcement officer of the state or a county or a city shall detain a youth upon notice in writing to the officer by the department that the youth has escaped from a correctional facility or program operated by or under contract with the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 158, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 429, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1416; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 53-30-228, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-128 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 385, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 344, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

52-5-129. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 344, L. 2019.

History: (1), (3) thru (7)En. 80-1414.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 429, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1977; Sec. 80-1414.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1975; Sec. 80-1414, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1414(part), 80-1414.1; (8)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 475, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 434, L. 1989; Sec. 53-30-229, MCA 1989; redes. 52-5-129 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 547, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 386, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 286, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 532, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 576, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 6
BATTERED SPOUSES

Part 1 — Battered Spouses Grant Programs

52-6-101. Battered spouses and domestic violence grant program created.
52-6-102. Duties of department.
52-6-103. Authorized grantees — criteria for grants.
52-6-104. Authorized services of programs.
52-6-105. Funding.

Chapter Cross-References

Civil legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence account, 3-2-714.
Offense of partner or family member assault, 45-5-206.
Written report of domestic violence situation, 46-6-601.

Part 1
Battered Spouses Grant Programs

Part Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Title 2, ch. 15, part 22.
Partner and family member assault, sexual assault, and stalking — victim protection, Title 40, ch. 15.
Criminal offense of partner or family member assault, 45-5-206.
Notice of rights to victim upon arrest in domestic violence situation, 46-6-602.

52-6-101. *(Temporary)* **Battered spouses and domestic violence grant program created.** There is a grant program established within the department of public health and human services for the allocation of grant money to local battered spouses and domestic violence programs. *(Repealed effective October 1, 2024—sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2023, sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 677, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 40-2-401, MCA 1989; redes. 52-6-101 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 387, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-6-102. *(Temporary)* **Duties of department.** The department of public health and human services:

(1) shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this part;

(2) may spend no more than 5% of the appropriated funds for administrative costs of the program;

(3) shall accept federal funds that may be available for use in carrying out the provisions of this part;

(4) may use state funds as a match for federal funds if required; and

(5) may conduct research and compile statistics relating to battered spouses and domestic violence. *(Repealed effective October 1, 2024—sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2023, sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 677, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 40-2-402, MCA 1989; redes. 52-6-102 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 388, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-6-103. *(Temporary)* **Authorized grantees — criteria for grants.** (1) The department of public health and human services shall award battered spouses and domestic violence grants only to local partner or family member assault programs that are locally controlled. Grants may be awarded to governmental or nongovernmental agencies or persons.

(2) Battered spouses and domestic violence grants are to be awarded on the following basis:

(a) demonstrated need;

(b) project merit;

(c) administrative design; and

(d) efficiency of administration. *(Repealed effective October 1, 2024—sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2023, sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 677, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 40-2-403, MCA 1989; redes. 52-6-103 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 350, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 389, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-6-104. *(Temporary)* **Authorized services of programs.** (1) Local battered spouses and domestic violence programs may provide services that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) counseling for victims or their spouses;

(b) shelters or safe homes for victims;

(c) advocacy programs that assist victims in obtaining services and information; and

(d) educational programs relating to battered spouses and domestic violence designed for both the community at large and specialized groups such as hospital personnel and law enforcement officials.

(2) The services authorized in subsection (1) may be provided on a regional basis by a local battered spouses and domestic violence program if authorized by the department of public health and human services according to regional boundaries established by the department. *(Repealed effective October 1, 2024—sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2023, sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 677, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 493, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; Sec. 40-2-404, MCA 1989; redes. 52-6-104 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 390, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

52-6-105. *(Temporary)* **Funding.** Twenty percent of the operational costs of a battered spouses and domestic violence program must come from the local community served by the program. The local contribution may include in-kind contributions. *(Repealed effective October 1, 2024—sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 2023, sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 677, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 493, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 1987; Sec. 40-2-405, MCA 1989; redes. 52-6-105 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 585, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Marriage license issuance — fee, 40-1-202.

Declaration of marriage without solemnization — fee, 40-1-311.

CHAPTER 7
MONTANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Part 1 — General

52-7-101. Child abuse and neglect prevention program.
52-7-102. Children's trust fund account — nonsupplantation of funds.
52-7-103. Gifts and grants to program.
52-7-104. Program costs.
52-7-105. Endowment for children.

Part 1
General

Part Cross-References

Montana Children's Trust Fund Board, 2-15-2214.
Voluntary tax checkoff for contribution to state child abuse and neglect prevention program, 15-30-2390.

52-7-101. Child abuse and neglect prevention program. (1) The Montana children's trust fund board, provided for in 2-15-2214, shall use the money in the children's trust fund account established by 52-7-102 and the interest from the endowment established by 52-7-105 to fund services and activities related to a broad range of child abuse and neglect prevention activities and family resource programs operated by nonprofit or public community-based educational and service organizations.

(2) In administering the child abuse and neglect prevention program, the board shall:

(a) develop a state plan, priorities for funded services and activities, and criteria for the receipt of program funds;

(b) monitor the expenditure of funds by organizations receiving funds under this section;

(c) evaluate the effectiveness of services and activities funded under this section; and

(d) adopt rules necessary to implement 52-7-103, 52-7-104, and this section.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 610, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 1997; Sec. 41-3-701, MCA 1999; redes. 52-7-101 by Sec. 17(3)(c), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-7-102. Children's trust fund account — nonsupplantation of funds. (1) There is a children's trust fund account in the state special revenue fund in the state treasury. The money in the account is allocated to the Montana children's trust fund board, provided for in 2-15-2214, for funding services and activities under and payment of administrative costs of the child abuse and neglect prevention program provided for in 52-7-101.

(2) Funds deposited in the children's trust fund account may be used only for the program authorized in 52-7-101 and may not be used to pay the expenses of any other program or service administered in whole or in part by the department of public health and human services.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 610, L. 1985; (2)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 610, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 41-3-702, MCA 1999; redes. 52-7-102 by Sec. 17(3)(c), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

52-7-103. Gifts and grants to program. The Montana children's trust fund board may accept contributions, gifts, and grants, in money or otherwise, to the child abuse and neglect prevention program. Monetary gifts, contributions, and grants earmarked for the endowment for children must be paid into the endowment established by 52-7-105.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 610, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 405, L. 1997; Sec. 41-3-703, MCA 1999; redes. 52-7-103 by Sec. 17(3)(c), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-7-104. Program costs. The costs incurred by the Montana children's trust fund board in administering the child abuse and neglect prevention program must be paid for with money from the children's trust fund account established by 52-7-102. The board shall keep costs to a minimum and use existing office space, personnel, equipment, and supplies of the department of public health and human services to the extent possible.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 610, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 172, Ch. 546, L. 1995; Sec. 41-3-704, MCA 1999; redes. 52-7-104 by Sec. 17(3)(c), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-7-105. Endowment for children. (1) There is within the permanent fund type an endowment for children. The endowment is not subject to appropriation. The purpose of the endowment is to provide a permanent source of funding to support the programs and services referred to in 52-7-101.

(2) The endowment may receive funds from:

(a) appropriations;

(b) gifts, grants, and donations, from public or private sources; and

(c) other money credited or transferred to the endowment from any other fund or source.

(3) The state treasurer must receive and shall deposit money in the endowment. The board of investments shall invest the money in the endowment. Only the interest generated by the endowment is available for expenditure by the board.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 405, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 34, L. 2001; Sec. 41-3-705, MCA 1999; redes. 52-7-105 by Sec. 17(3)(c), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Permanent fund type, 17-2-102.

CHAPTER 8
LICENSING OF CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY

Part 1 — Licensing

52-8-101. Definitions.
52-8-102. General duties of department.
52-8-103. License required — exception — term of license — no fee charged.
52-8-104. Requirements for licensure.
52-8-105 and 52-8-106 reserved.
52-8-107. Investigation of agencies — cancellation of licenses.
52-8-108. Violation a misdemeanor — penalty.

Part 1
Licensing

52-8-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Person" includes any individual, partnership, voluntary association, or corporation.

(2) "Placement activities" means any of the following:

(a) placement of a child for adoption or foster care;

(b) arranging or providing short-term foster care for a child pending an adoptive placement; or

(c) facilitating placement of a child by maintaining a list in any form of birth parents or prospective adoptive or foster parents.

(3) "Soliciting" means to request, offer, promote, or refer, either directly or indirectly through correspondence, advertising, or other method, a potential adoptive or foster parent or couple, birth parent or parents, or placement of a child by a birth parent.

History: En. Sec. 151, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 42-8-101, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-101 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-8-102. General duties of department. The department shall:

(1) issue licenses to entities engaged in child placement activities on October 1, 1997, if the licensed applicant has met the requirements established by the department by rule;

(2) prescribe the conditions upon which child-placing licenses are issued and revoked; and

(3) adopt rules for the conduct of the affairs of child-placing agencies that are consistent with the welfare of children.

History: En. Sec. 152, Ch. 480, L. 1997; Sec. 42-8-102, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-102 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

52-8-103. License required — exception — term of license — no fee charged. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), only an entity holding a current child-placing agency license issued by the department may act as an agency for the purpose of:

(a) procuring or selecting proposed adoptive or foster homes;

(b) placing children in proposed adoptive or foster homes;

(c) soliciting persons to adopt or foster children or arranging for persons to adopt or foster children;

(d) soliciting persons to relinquish children or place children in potential adoptive or foster homes; or

(e) engaging in placement activities.

(2) (a) An attorney or health care provider may assist a parent in identifying or locating a person interested in adopting the parent's child or in identifying or locating a child to be adopted, provided that the attorney or health care provider shall also provide an expectant parent and prospective adoptive parent with a list of agencies licensed to assist with adoption support services and counseling. No payment, charge, fee, reimbursement of expense, or exchange of value of any kind may be made to the attorney or health care provider assisting the parent.

(b) An adoption in which an attorney or health care provider assists as allowed under subsection (2)(a) must comply with the provisions of Title 42 and this chapter.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (2), "health care provider" means a person licensed under Title 37 whose scope of practice includes the provision of obstetrical care.

(3) Licenses are valid for 1 year after issuance. A fee may not be charged for a license.

History: En. Sec. 153, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 42-8-103, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-103 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 528, L. 2021.

52-8-104. Requirements for licensure. The department may issue licenses to agencies meeting the following minimum requirements:

(1) The chief function of the agency or a specific program within the agency must be the care and placement of children.

(2) The agency operates on a nonprofit basis and is financially responsible in and for its operation.

(3) The agency meets the requirements as designated by the department by rule.

(4) The directing or managing personnel of the agency must be qualified both on the basis of professional educational experience and character.

(5) The agency shall maintain complete records of the children and adoptive or foster parents with which the agency deals. Adoption records must be maintained in accordance with 42-6-101.

(6) The agency shall maintain and use an in-state office for making a social study of the child, particularly with regard to the physical and mental condition of the child and the child's family background.

(7) The agency shall maintain and use an in-state office for conducting a preplacement evaluation for adoptive parents or a home study for foster parents, particularly with regard to the physical and mental health, emotional stability, and personal integrity of the adoptive or foster parents and their ability to promote the child's welfare.

(8) The agency must have the ability to provide education for adoptive or foster parents and adoptive decision support services for placing parents as required in 42-2-409 and department rules.

(9) The agency shall agree to cooperate with courts having jurisdiction in adoptive or foster care matters and with other public agencies having to deal with the welfare of children.

(10) The agency shall, annually, submit a full, complete, and true financial statement to the department, and the statement must contain a full accounting of the operations of the agency during the preceding year.

History: En. Sec. 154, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 42-8-104, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-104 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 175, L. 2021.

52-8-105 and 52-8-106 reserved.

52-8-107. Investigation of agencies — cancellation of licenses. (1) The department may, through its authorized representative, investigate the operations of licensed agencies and may cancel licenses for failure to observe prescribed rules or to maintain minimum requirements. An agency shall give to representatives of the department all information requested and allow them to observe the operation of the agency.

(2) When the department finds, upon the basis of the statement required by 52-8-104(10) or upon its own investigation, that an agency has not conducted or is financially incapable of conducting its operations according to the established standards, the department may suspend, revoke, or deny a license for the agency.

History: En. Sec. 155, Ch. 480, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 311, L. 2001; Sec. 42-8-107, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-107 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

52-8-108. Violation a misdemeanor — penalty. (1) Any person who maintains or conducts an agency for procuring the adoption of children or assists in the maintaining or conducting of an agency without first obtaining a child-placing license is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction of a first offense shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or imprisonment for up to 1 year in jail and shall be enjoined from further engaging in agency activities.

(2) Upon the second conviction of a person for violation of 52-8-103, 52-8-104, and 52-8-107, the person is guilty of a felony and may be punished by a fine not exceeding $10,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years in prison and shall be enjoined from further engaging in agency activities.

History: En. Sec. 156, Ch. 480, L. 1997; Sec. 42-8-108, MCA 1999; redes. 52-8-108 by Sec. 17(3)(e), Ch. 281, L. 2001.

TITLE 53
SOCIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS

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2. Administration of Public Assistance.
3. General Relief.
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5. Adult Services.
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Title Cross-References

Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

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Chapter Cross-References

Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Department of Corrections, Title 53, ch. 1, part 2.

Part 1
General Provisions

53-1-101. Repealed. Sec. 567, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1402; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991.

53-1-102. Removal of patients from state custodial institutions or correctional facilities without permission a misdemeanor. (1) A person, other than a parent or one having legal custody of a patient or inmate, who permits or assists a resident patient or inmate of a state custodial institution or correctional facility to leave the institution or facility without permission from the properly authorized member of the staff or proper court order is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding 6 months or by a fine not exceeding $500, or both.

(2) This section may not be construed to conflict with laws relative to inmates of a state prison.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1417; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 491, L. 1999.

Cross-References
Escape, 45-7-306.

53-1-103. Distribution of alcoholic beverages or drugs to patients at state custodial institutions or correctional facilities a misdemeanor. (1) A person who knowingly sells or distributes or attempts to sell or distribute alcoholic beverages or drugs to the resident patients or inmates of a state custodial institution or correctional facility without permission of the medical staff is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, is punishable by imprisonment in a county detention facility not exceeding 6 months or by a fine not exceeding $500, or both.

(2) This section may not be construed to conflict with laws relative to inmates of a state prison.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1418; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 491, L. 1999.

Cross-References
Liquor administered to institution inmates, 16-6-309.

53-1-104. Release of arsonist — notification of department of justice. (1) Each of the following institutions, correctional facilities, or other facilities having the charge or custody of a person convicted of arson or of a person acquitted of arson on the ground of mental disease or disorder shall give written notification to the department of justice when the person is admitted or released by it:

(a) the Montana state hospital;
(b) a state prison;
(c) a Montana correctional facility housing youth; or
(d) a county or city detention facility.

(2) The notification must disclose:

(a) the name of the person;
(b) where the person is or will be located; and
(c) the type of fire the person was involved in.

History: En. 80-1403.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1403.1; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 236, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 161, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References
Department of Justice, Title 2, ch. 15, part 20.
Negligent arson, 45-6-102.
Arson, 45-6-103.

53-1-105. Disposition of contraband in correctional institution. (1) Cash possessed in excess of the amount allowed by the policy of a correctional institution or obtained in violation of a policy may be confiscated and deposited in an inmate or resident welfare fund to be used for the intended purpose of that fund.

(2) The department of corrections shall adopt policies for the disposition of other contraband confiscated from inmates or residents in correctional institutions. Receipts from the sale of contraband must be deposited in an inmate or resident welfare fund to be used for the intended purpose of that fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 391, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References
Youthful offenders, Title 52, ch. 5, part 1.
Powers and duties of Department of Corrections, 53-1-203.
Adult offenders — prisons, Title 53, ch. 30, part 1.

53-1-106. Exchange of offenders under treaty. If a treaty in effect between the United States and a foreign country provides for the transfer, by exchange or otherwise, of convicted offenders to the country of which they are citizens or nationals, the governor may, on behalf of the state and subject to the terms of the treaty, authorize the director of the department of corrections to consent to the transfer or exchange of offenders in Montana institutions and take any other action necessary to initiate the participation of this state in the treaty.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 392, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.

53-1-107. *(Temporary)* **Inmate financial transactions and trust account system.** (1) An inmate of a state prison, as defined in 53-30-101(1), (2), and (4), shall use the prison inmate trust account system administered by the department of corrections to send money out of or receive money in the facility unless the department grants the inmate an exception. The department may charge an inmate a minimum fee, not to exceed $2 each month, to administer the inmate's account.

(2) The department may, consistent with administrative rules adopted by the department, use a portion of the funds in an inmate's account to:

(a) satisfy court-ordered restitution, whether or not restitution is a condition of probation or parole;

(b) satisfy court-ordered child support;

(c) satisfy court-ordered fines, fees, or costs;

(d) pay for the inmate's medical and dental expenses and costs of incarceration; and

(e) pay any other fees, costs, expenses, or monetary sanctions ordered by a court or imposed by a state prison and pay reasonable claims by a debt collection or financial institution.

(3) (a) Money taken under subsection (2) for the payment of restitution must be paid in the following order:

(i) to the victim until the victim's unreimbursed pecuniary loss is satisfied;

(ii) to the crime victims compensation and assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the account provided for in 53-9-113 until the state is fully reimbursed for compensation to the victim provided pursuant to Title 53, chapter 9, part 1;

(iii) to any other government agency that has compensated the victim for the victim's pecuniary loss; and

(iv) to any insurance company that has compensated the victim for the victim's pecuniary loss.

(b) If there is a balance of money in the inmate's account after payments under subsection (2), the department may allow the balance to accumulate in a savings subaccount for the inmate.

(4) (a) The department shall adopt rules to set a percentage of earnings not to exceed 25% that an inmate worker is required to save in a savings subaccount.

(b) The rules must include that, upon release of an inmate from a state prison, the department shall dispense money directly from the subaccount to the former inmate, the inmate's landlord, or other approved recipients, including service providers.

(c) The department shall adopt rules to exempt the following inmates from participation in the mandatory inmate savings program under subsection (4)(a):

(i) inmates who are of advanced age;

(ii) inmates who have a parole eligibility date that puts them at an advanced age at eligibility;

(iii) inmates who do not have parole eligibility and are serving a long sentence that puts them at an advanced age upon their discharge date;

(iv) inmates who are serving a life sentence but have a parole eligibility date that puts them at an advanced age at eligibility; and

(v) inmates who are not eligible for parole and are serving life sentences.

(5) The department shall adopt rules establishing the prison inmate trust account system and criteria for the use of funds under this section. The rules must contain clear guidelines regarding the use of funds that ensure payment under subsection (2) and that inhibit an inmate's ability to deal in contraband or illegal acts within or outside the state prison.

(6) An inmate is responsible for the inmate's medical and dental expenses and is obligated to repay the department for reasonable costs incurred by the department for the inmate's medical and dental expenses. The department may investigate, identify, take in any manner allowed by law for the satisfaction of a judgment, and use to pay the inmate's medical and dental expenses any assets of the inmate or any income of the inmate from sources outside the state prison that is not deposited in the account provided for in subsection (1). *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

53-1-107. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Inmate financial transactions and trust account system.** (1) An inmate of a state prison, as defined in 53-30-101(1), (2), and (4), shall use the prison inmate trust account system administered by the department of corrections to send money out of or receive money in the facility unless the department grants the inmate an exception. The department may charge an inmate a minimum fee, not to exceed $2 each month, to administer the inmate's account.

(2) The department may, consistent with administrative rules adopted by the department, use a portion of the funds in an inmate's account to:

(a) satisfy court-ordered restitution, whether or not restitution is a condition of probation or parole;

(b) satisfy court-ordered child support;

(c) satisfy court-ordered fines, fees, or costs;

(d) pay for the inmate's medical and dental expenses and costs of incarceration; and

(e) pay any other fees, costs, expenses, or monetary sanctions ordered by a court or mposed by a state prison and pay reasonable claims by a debt collection or financial institution.

(3) (a) Money taken under subsection (2) for the payment of restitution must be paid in the following order:

(i) to the victim until the victim's unreimbursed pecuniary loss is satisfied;

(ii) to the crime victims compensation and assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the state general fund until the state is fully reimbursed for compensation to the victim provided pursuant to Title 53, chapter 9, part 1;

(iii) to any other government agency that has compensated the victim for the victim's pecuniary loss; and

(iv) to any insurance company that has compensated the victim for the victim's pecuniary loss.

(b) If there is a balance of money in the inmate's account after payments under subsection (2), the department may allow the balance to accumulate in a savings subaccount for the inmate.

(4) (a) The department shall adopt rules to set a percentage of earnings not to exceed 25% that an inmate worker is required to save in a savings subaccount.

(b) The rules must include that, upon release of an inmate from a state prison, the department shall dispense money directly from the subaccount to the former inmate, the nmate's landlord, or other approved recipients, including service providers.

(c) The department shall adopt rules to exempt the following inmates from participation in the mandatory inmate savings program under subsection (4)(a):

(i) inmates who are of advanced age;

(ii) inmates who have a parole eligibility date that puts them at an advanced age at eligibility;

(iii) inmates who do not have parole eligibility and are serving a long sentence that puts them at an advanced age upon their discharge date;

(iv) inmates who are serving a life sentence but have a parole eligibility date that puts them at an advanced age at eligibility; and

(v) inmates who are not eligible for parole and are serving life sentences.

(5) The department shall adopt rules establishing the prison inmate trust account system and criteria for the use of funds under this section. The rules must contain clear guidelines regarding the use of funds that ensure payment under subsection (2) and that inhibit an inmate's ability to deal in contraband or illegal acts within or outside the state prison.

(6) An inmate is responsible for the inmate's medical and dental expenses and is obligated to repay the department for reasonable costs incurred by the department for the inmate's medical and dental expenses. The department may investigate, identify, take in any manner allowed by law for the satisfaction of a judgment, and use to pay the inmate's medical and dental expenses any assets of the inmate or any income of the inmate from sources outside the state prison that is not deposited in the account provided for in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 118, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 2, 5, Ch. 353, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 374, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

53-1-108. Inmate financial disclosure and account monitoring. (1) Upon incarceration at a state prison, an inmate shall:

(a) make full disclosure of all the inmate's accounts in financial institutions to the department of corrections in writing and under oath;

(b) sign a release authorizing any financial institution in which the inmate has an account of any kind to provide the department with copies of records of any transaction in the account during the inmate's term of incarceration in the prison or correctional system. Released copies of records are confidential criminal justice information as defined in 44-5-103.

(c) sign a release authorizing the department to monitor any inmate account in a financial institution.

(2) Failure of an inmate to disclose information under subsection (1)(a) or sign a release under subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c) is an offense under 45-7-302.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 316, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 491, L. 1999.

53-1-109. Facility resident and prison inmate welfare account. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund. The net proceeds from Pine Hills correctional facility resident and state prison inmate canteen purchases and resident or inmate telephone use, cash proceeds from the disposition of confiscated contraband, and any public money held for the needs of residents or inmates and their families and not otherwise allocated must be deposited in the account. Money in an account established under 53-1-107 may not be deposited in the account established in this subsection.

(2) The money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of corrections, which may allocate the money referred to in subsection (1) to the Pine Hills correctional facility and state prisons in proportion to the amount that each facility contributed to the fund. The superintendent of the Pine Hills correctional facility and the administrator of each state prison shall consult with the residents and inmates in the superintendent's or administrator's respective facility about the use of the money allocated to the Pine Hills correctional facility or the state prison and may use the money for the needs of that facility's residents or inmates and their families.

(3) For purposes of this section, "state prison" has the meaning provided in 53-30-101(1), (2), and (4).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

53-1-110. Disposition of inmate trust account funds and tangible personal property. (1) A state inmate who is incarcerated in a state prison, as defined in 53-30-101, shall complete a department form designating a beneficiary by name. The beneficiary is entitled to the inmate's trust account funds and to the tangible personal property located on the state prison premises if the inmate dies while incarcerated at the state prison.

(2) The department shall develop a form conforming to the requirements of 72-2-522(2) to provide for the disposition of the inmate's trust account funds and tangible personal property. The form must conspicuously state that the inmate may modify or revoke the instrument at any time if the inmate makes a request to the warden or the warden's designee.

(3) (a) The department shall distribute a deceased inmate's trust account funds and tangible personal property to the beneficiary in accordance with the terms of the form and may not require other processes to distribute the funds.

(b) If the inmate's beneficiary or other person with priority under 37-19-904 refuses to take custody of the inmate's remains and the department pays for the cremation or burial, the costs of the disposition of the remains must be deducted from the inmate's trust account.

(c) The department may not deduct funds from the deceased inmate's trust account on or after the inmate's date of death to be applied to inmate obligations provided for in 53-1-107.

(d) The department may not distribute trust account funds until at least 45 days after the inmate's death to ensure that any accrued earnings or refunds that are due to the inmate are properly credited to the inmate's trust account before distribution.

(4) A department employee may not be named as beneficiary unless the employee is the inmate's next of kin.

(5) If the department cannot locate the inmate's designated beneficiary within a reasonable period of time after the inmate's death, the department shall transfer the inmate's trust account

funds to the department of revenue in accordance with Title 70, chapter 9, part 8, and the tangible personal property items may be destroyed.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 431, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 4, 2023.

Part 2
Department of Corrections

Part Cross-References

Department of Corrections — head, 2-15-2301.
Collection of inmate data for redistricting, Title 5, ch. 1, part 2.
Cooperative agreements with district weed boards, 7-22-2151.
Corrections, Title 53, ch. 30.
Private correctional facilities, Title 53, ch. 30, part 6.

53-1-201. Purpose of department of corrections. The department of corrections shall use at maximum efficiency the resources of state government in a coordinated effort to:

(1) develop and maintain comprehensive services and programs in the field of adult and youth corrections;

(2) provide for the custody, assessment, care, supervision, treatment, education, rehabilitation, and work and skill development of formerly adjudicated delinquent youth who are referred or committed to the department; and

(3) minimize recidivism among offenders during and after their participation in the department's programs and monitor the rate of recidivism to determine the success of efforts to reduce recidivism.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1401; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 393, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 339, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-1-202. Department of corrections. (1) Adult and youth correctional services are included in the department of corrections to carry out the purposes of the department.

(2) Adult corrections services consist of the following correctional facilities or programs:

(a) a state prison as defined in 53-30-101;

(b) appropriate community-based programs for the placement, supervision, and rehabilitation of adult felons who meet the criteria developed by the department for placement:

(i) in prerelease centers;

(ii) under intensive supervision;

(iii) under parole or probation pursuant to Title 46, chapter 23, part 2; or

(iv) in other appropriate programs; and

(c) the Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program authorized by 53-30-131.

(3) Youth correctional services consist of the following correctional facilities or programs to provide for custody, supervision, training, education, and rehabilitation of delinquent youth and youth in need of intervention pursuant to Title 52, chapter 5:

(a) Pine Hills correctional facility or other correctional facility as defined in 41-5-103; and

(b) any other facility or program under contract with the department that provides custody and services for delinquent youth.

(4) A state institution or correctional facility may not be moved, discontinued, or abandoned without the consent of the legislature.

(5) (a) A legislator must be admitted into the following correctional facilities or programs at any time subject to any immediate safety or security needs of the correctional facility or program:

(i) a facility listed in 53-30-101;

(ii) a prerelease center operated by or under a contract with the department of corrections;

(iii) a facility or program listed in subsection (3); and

(iv) a facility contracting with the department of corrections pursuant to Title 53, chapter 30, part 3.

(b) A legislator seeking access to a correctional facility or program listed in subsection (5)(a) is subject to the routine security inspection procedures of the facility or program.

(c) A department of corrections contract with a correctional facility or program listed in subsection (2) or (3) must specify that the correctional facility or program shall grant access to a legislator pursuant to this subsection (5).

(d) If a legislator is denied entrance under subsection (5)(a), the facility or program must enumerate why access was denied and provide a reasonable estimate of when access will be granted.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1403; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 683, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 651, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 394, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 237, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

53-1-203. Powers and duties of department of corrections. (1) The department of corrections shall:

(a) subject to subsection (6), adopt rules necessary:

(i) for the siting, establishment, and expansion of prerelease centers;

(ii) for the expansion of treatment facilities or programs previously established by contract through a competitive procurement process;

(iii) for the establishment and maintenance of residential methamphetamine treatment programs; and

(iv) for the admission, custody, transfer, and release of persons in department programs and state prisons, as defined in 53-30-101, except as otherwise provided by law;

(b) subject to the functions of the department of administration, lease or purchase lands for use by correctional facilities and classify those lands to determine those that may be most profitably used for agricultural purposes, taking into consideration the needs of all correctional facilities for the food products that can be grown or produced on the lands and the relative value of agricultural programs in the treatment or rehabilitation of the persons confined in correctional facilities;

(c) contract with private, nonprofit Montana corporations or, pursuant to the Montana Community Corrections Act, with community corrections facilities or programs or local or tribal governments to establish and maintain:

(i) prerelease and treatment centers for purposes of preparing inmates of a Montana prison who are within 14 months of parole eligibility or discharge for release into the community, providing an alternative placement for offenders who have violated parole or probation, and providing a sentencing option for felony offenders pursuant to 46-18-201. The centers shall provide a less restrictive environment than the prison while maintaining adequate security. The centers must be operated in coordination with other department correctional programs. This subsection does not affect the department's authority to operate and maintain prerelease or treatment centers.

(ii) residential methamphetamine treatment programs for the purpose of alternative sentencing as provided for in 46-18-201 or 46-18-202 and any other sections relating to alternative sentences for persons convicted of possession of methamphetamine. The department shall issue a request for proposals using a competitive process and shall follow the applicable contract and procurement procedures in Title 18.

(d) use the staff and services of other state agencies and units of the Montana university system, within their respective statutory functions, to carry out its functions under this title;

(e) propose programs to the legislature to meet the projected long-range needs of corrections, including programs and facilities for the custody, supervision, treatment, parole, and skill development of persons placed in correctional facilities or programs;

(f) encourage the establishment of programs at the local and state level for the rehabilitation and education of felony offenders;

(g) encourage efforts within the department and at the local level that would develop housing options and resource materials related to housing for individuals who are released from the Montana state prison or community corrections programs;

(h) maintain data on the number of individuals who are discharged from the adult correction services listed in 53-1-202 into a homeless shelter or a homeless situation;

(i) administer all state and federal funds allocated to the department for delinquent youth, as defined in 41-5-103;

(j) collect and disseminate information relating to youth who are committed to the department for placement in a correctional facility as defined in 41-5-103;

(k) maintain adequate data on placements that it funds in order to keep the legislature properly informed of the specific information, by category, related to delinquent youth in out-of-home care facilities;

(l) provide funding for youth who are committed to the department for placement in a correctional facility as defined in 41-5-103;

(m) administer correctional facilities as defined in 41-5-103; and

(n) use to maximum efficiency the resources of state government in a coordinated effort to:

(i) provide for delinquent youth committed to the department; and

(ii) coordinate and apply the principles of modern correctional administration to the facilities and programs administered by the department.

(2) The department may contract with private, nonprofit or for-profit Montana corporations to establish and maintain a residential sexual offender treatment program. If the department intends to contract for that purpose, the department shall adopt rules for the establishment and maintenance of that program.

(3) The department and a private, nonprofit or for-profit Montana corporation may not enter into a contract under subsection (1)(c) or (2) for a period that exceeds 20 years. The provisions of 18-4-313 that limit the term of a contract do not apply to a contract authorized by subsection (1)(c) or (2). Prior to entering into a contract for a period of 20 years, the department shall submit the proposed contract to the legislative audit committee. The legislative audit division shall review the contract and make recommendations or comments to the legislative audit committee. The committee may make recommendations or comments to the department. The department shall respond to the committee, accepting or rejecting the committee recommendations or comments prior to entering into the contract.

(4) The department of corrections may enter into contracts with nonprofit corporations or associations or private organizations to provide substitute care for delinquent youth in correctional facilities.

(5) The department may contract with Montana corporations to operate a day reporting program as an alternate sentencing option as provided in 46-18-201 and 46-18-225 and as a sanction option under 46-23-1015. The department shall adopt by rule the requirements for a day reporting program, including but not limited to requirements for daily check-in, participation in programs to develop life skills, and the monitoring of compliance with any conditions of probation, such as drug testing.

(6) Rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection (1)(a) may not amend or alter the statutory powers and duties of the state board of pardons and parole. The rules for the siting, establishment, and expansion of prerelease centers must state that the siting is subject to any existing conditions, covenants, restrictions of record, and zoning regulations. The rules must provide that a prerelease center may not be sited at any location without community support. The prerelease siting, establishment, and expansion must be subject to, and the rules must include, a reasonable mechanism for a determination of community support for or objection to the siting of a prerelease center in the area determined to be impacted. The prerelease siting, establishment, and expansion rules must provide for a public hearing conducted pursuant to Title 2, chapter 3.

(7) The department shall ensure that risk and needs assessments drive the department's supervision and correctional practices, including integrating assessment results into supervision contact standards and case management. The department shall regularly validate its risk assessment tool.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 395, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 5, 16, Ch. 322, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 550, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 517, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 398, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 483, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 143, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 179, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 335, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 344, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 339, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Collection of inmate data for redistricting, Title 5, ch. 1, part 2.
General powers and duties of Department of Administration, 18-2-105.
Montana Youth Court Act, Title 41, ch. 5.
General provisions of Board of Pardons and Parole, Title 46, ch. 23, part 1.
Disposition of contraband in correctional institution, 53-1-105.
Rates — per diem costs for residential correctional programs, Title 53, ch. 1, part 5.
Community-based services, Title 53, ch. 20, part 2.
Defendant to bear expense of alternative imprisonments — alcohol-related offenses, 61-8-734.

53-1-204. Responsibility of warden and superintendents of institutions. The warden or superintendents of institutions in the department of corrections are responsible for the immediate management and control of their respective institutions, subject to the general policies and programs established by the department of corrections.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1406; amd. Sec. 396, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Qualifications of wardens, 53-30-102.

53-1-205. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 495, L. 1979.

History: En. 80-1407.1 by Sec. 43, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1407.1.

53-1-206. Participation by institutions in research programs. The department of corrections may direct a penal and corrective institution of the state to participate in and cooperate with programs of research and development being conducted and carried on by any units of the Montana university system, by any of the other educational institutions of the state of Montana, or by any foundation or agency of an educational institution in the fields of science, health, education, and natural resources. These programs may include the voluntary participation of the inmates of the institution in testing and experimental work conducted as a part the testing. Any funds received from the authorized programs may be shared with the participating inmates or otherwise held and used for the welfare and rehabilitation of the inmates and may not become a part of the regular budgeted operation of the institution.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1413; amd. Sec. 397, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Research programs — powers of units, 20-25-108.

53-1-207. Authorization of inmate labor for designated construction projects — exemptions. (1) The department of corrections is authorized to use inmate labor for the purpose of construction projects at a state prison that are authorized by the legislature.

(2) The department of administration shall provide for construction of the projects authorized by this section, which are to be built by the lowest responsible bidder, with contract specifications to allow the use of inmate labor. The percentage of inmate labor must be determined prior to the advertising for bid of the projects through negotiations among the department of corrections, the department of administration, representatives of construction industry employers, and representatives of the building trades.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Construction contracts, Title 18, ch. 2.

53-1-208. Payment to Powell County. (1) The department of corrections shall allocate $46,000 each fiscal year from the proprietary enterprise fund established for the operation of the state prison ranch to the Powell County treasurer.

(2) The Powell County treasurer shall distribute the payment in the relative proportions required by the levies for state, county, school district, and municipal purposes in the same manner as property taxes are distributed.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 550, L. 1999.

Cross-References

State treasury fund and account structure, 17-2-102.

53-1-209. Allowed purpose. The former forensic unit at Warm Springs is the property of the department of corrections, and the building may be used only for treatment of inmates with chemical dependency or other mental or physical health-related problems.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 2001.

53-1-210. Transfer of property — allowed purpose. Pursuant to 53-20-505 and 77-2-302, the former Eastmont human services center at Glendive is the property of the department of corrections, and the building may be used for any purpose determined appropriate by the department. Whenever possible, the department shall employ the former employees of the Eastmont human services center in the new program established at the facility.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 575, L. 2003.

53-1-211. Quality assurance unit — program standards — evaluation — cooperation with department of public health and human services — report. (1) There is a quality assurance unit in the department of corrections.

(2) In addition to duties assigned to it by the department director or otherwise required by law, the unit shall:

(a) adopt an evidence-based program evaluation tool that measures how closely correctional programs meet the known principles of effective intervention. The tool must measure program content and capacity to ensure the delivery of effective interventions for offenders.

(b) conduct evaluations of programs to reduce recidivism that are funded by the state; and

(c) enforce standards to ensure that programs are using best practices for reducing recidivism, including targeting highest-risk individuals, adhering to evidence-based or research-driven practices, and integrating opportunities for ongoing quality assurance and evaluation.

(3) Subject to the availability of funding, the department may contract with an independent contractor or academic institution to complete evaluations.

(4) The unit shall work jointly with the department of public health and human services to develop standards for quality assurance in behavioral health programs or other clinical programs.

(5) The unit shall conduct regular evaluations of programs operated by the department or under a contract with the department.

(6) The department shall:

(a) develop and maintain a list of evidence-based treatment curriculums to be utilized in programs operated by or under contract with the department with priority being placed on adopting treatment curriculums that are in the public domain and evidence-based; and

(b) report the results of all initial and ongoing program evaluations to the law and justice interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210, including any identified program deficiencies and the department's plan to correct those deficiencies.

(7) After May 19, 2017, the department shall ensure that contracts signed or renewed with providers contain:

(a) minimum program standards that adhere to the evidence-based program evaluation tool adopted as required in subsection (2);

(b) offender eligibility criteria for program entry with the contractor; and

(c) program dosage requirements that conform to evidence-based practices.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 390, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

53-1-212 and 53-1-213 reserved.

53-1-214. Educational aid to wrongfully convicted persons exonerated by postconviction DNA testing. (1) Subject to appropriation by the legislature, a person who was convicted in this state of a felony offense, who was incarcerated in a state prison for any period of time, and whose judgment of conviction was overturned by a court based on the results of postconviction forensic DNA testing that exonerates the person of the crime for which the person was convicted is entitled to receive educational aid at the state's expense. The department of corrections shall authorize educational aid for any person entitled to it under this section. The department shall establish, by rule, the procedures for application, designation of authority to receive aid, procedures for payment of aid, and forms to be used for this program. Aid under this section must include expenses for tuition, fees, books, board, and room at any:

(a) Montana community college;

(b) unit of the Montana university system, as described in 20-25-201; or

(c) accredited Montana tribally controlled community college.

(2) State aid under this section must include assistance, as described in subsection (1), in meeting any admission standards or criteria required at any of the institutions listed in subsection (1), including but not limited to assistance in satisfying requirements for a certificate of equivalency of completion of secondary education and assistance in completing any adult education program or courses. An adult education fund must be reimbursed by the state for any costs of completing an adult education program or courses under this section.

(3) The board of regents of higher education may waive fees and tuition for education provided under this section pursuant to 20-25-421. The department of corrections shall notify the board of regents before August 1 of each year of educational aid that is to be provided under this section for the next school year.

(4) The privilege of receiving aid under this section remains active for 10 years after the release of a person who qualifies for aid under subsection (1). State education aid must continue for up to a total of 5 years of aid within the 10-year aid period or until the degree or program for which the person is authorized under subsection (1) is completed, whichever is less, as long as the person continues to make satisfactory progress in the courses or program attempted. Aid is available for completion of any degree or program available from the institutions listed in subsection (1), at the recipient's choice.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 2003.

53-1-215. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 413, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2013.

53-1-216. Montana criminal justice oversight council — duties — membership. (1) (a) There is a Montana criminal justice oversight council. The council consists of 18 members as follows:

(i) two members of the house of representatives, one selected by the speaker of the house and one selected by the house minority leader; and

(ii) two members of the senate, one selected by the president of the senate and one selected by the senate minority leader;

(iii) one district court judge and one municipal court judge selected by the chief justice of the Montana supreme court;

(iv) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

(v) the director of the department of corrections;

(vi) the director of the office of state public defender;

(vii) the director of the department of public health and human services;

(viii) a county sheriff and a county attorney appointed by the attorney general; and

(ix) the following individuals appointed by the governor:

(A) one member of a federally recognized Indian tribe located within the boundaries of the state of Montana who has expertise in criminal justice;

(B) one member of the board of pardons and parole;

(C) one representative of crime victims who also serves on the board of crime control established in 2-15-2008;

(D) one representative of civil rights advocates; and

(E) two representatives of community corrections providers, one of whom must represent a treatment facility and one of whom must represent a prerelease center.

(b) When appointing members as required in subsection (1)(a), the governor and attorney general shall consider appointing individuals who also serve on the board of crime control established in 2-15-2008.

(2) The legislative services division shall provide clerical and administrative staff services to the council.

(3) The council shall elect a presiding officer, who must be a legislator.

(4) The council shall:

(a) provide direction and recommendations to the board of crime control regarding data to be included in the criminal justice data warehouse established in 44-7-126 and policies to govern the use of and priorities for the criminal justice data warehouse;

(b) study and recommend solutions to address issues facing the criminal justice system and its constituent state and local agencies;

(c) monitor the functioning of the criminal justice system; and

(d) make recommendations to the legislature to address system issues proactively, manage limited resources, improve workloads, make improvements to state and local criminal justice systems, meaningfully address crime, and enhance public safety.

(5) The council shall submit a report to the governor and legislature, as provided in 5-11-210. The report must include a description of the council's proceedings since the previous report.

(6) The council may request legislation to enact changes to the state's criminal justice system that the council finds necessary.

(7) The judicial branch, the department of corrections, the department of public health and human services, the board of pardons and parole, and the legislative services and fiscal divisions shall provide information and assistance as requested by the council.

(8) A vacancy on the council must be filled in the manner of the original appointment. If a vacancy on the council remains unfilled by the appropriate appointing authority for more than 60 days, the council may vote to appoint a member to serve on the council until the appropriate appointing authority makes an appointment.

(9) Council members must be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members of the council who are full-time salaried officers or employees of this state or any political subdivision are entitled to their regular compensation. Legislative members must be compensated as provided in 5-2-302.

(10) The council shall provide updates to the law and justice interim committee and the legislative finance committee as requested.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 240, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 641, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 641, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

53-1-217. Recidivism. Any report produced by a state entity that requires the disclosure of information regarding recidivism or recidivism rates must use the definition of recidivism provided in 1-1-207.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 641, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 641, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 19, 2023.

Codification Change: Section 3, Ch. 641, L. 2023, was not codified because of its short duration. The Code Commissioner has instead codified sec. 4, Ch. 641, as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 1, part 2.

Part 3
Institutional Industries
(Repealed)

53-1-301. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 530, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, Sp. L. May 1990; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 402, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1997.

53-1-302. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1502; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 632, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 189, L. 1997.

53-1-303. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1503; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 426, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 403, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-1-304. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 404, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 1997.

Part 4
Per Diem Payments for Institutional Care

53-1-401. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "All-inclusive rate" means a fixed charge that is computed on a daily basis or on the basis of another time period for inpatients, that is computed on a per visit basis for outpatients, and that is applicable uniformly to each patient without regard to the extent of the services required by the patient and without regard to a distinction between physician services and hospital services.

(2) "Ancillary charge" means the expense of providing identifiable, direct, resident services, including but not limited to:

(a) physicians' services;
(b) x-ray and laboratory services;
(c) dental services;
(d) speech-language pathology and audiology services;
(e) occupational and physical therapy;
(f) medical supplies;
(g) prescribed drugs; and
(h) specialized medical equipment.

(3) "Care" means the care, treatment, support, maintenance, and other services rendered by the department to a resident.

(4) "Cost of care" means the applicable all-inclusive rate charges or per diem charges and ancillary charges for a resident's care that are determined as provided in this part.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Financially responsible person" means a spouse of a resident, the natural or adoptive parents of a resident under 18 years of age, or a guardian or conservator to the extent of the guardian's or conservator's responsibility for the financial affairs of the person who is a resident under applicable Montana law establishing the duties and limitations of guardianships or conservatorships.

(7) "Full-time equivalent resident load" means the total daily resident count for the fiscal year divided by the number of days in the year.

(8) "Gross daily budgeted cost" means the total cost of operating a facility as budgeted through the legislative appropriation process less the budgeted amount of federal grant revenue for the institution for a fiscal year.

(9) "Long-term resident" means a resident in an institution listed in 53-1-402 for a continuous period in excess of 120 days. The absence of a resident from the institution due to a temporary or trial visit may not be counted as interrupting the accrual of the 120 days required to attain the status of a long-term resident.

(10) "Per diem charge" means the gross daily budgeted cost of operating an institution or an individual unit of an institution (including but not limited to contracted medical services, depreciation, and associated department costs but excluding the cost of educational programs, ancillary charges, and costs not directly identified with patient care) divided by the full-time equivalent resident load for the previous state fiscal year.

(11) "Resident" means any person who is receiving care from or who is a resident of an institution listed in 53-1-402.

(12) (a) "Third party" means any third-party individual or entity that is or may be liable to pay all or part of the charges for a resident's cost of care, including but not limited to applicable medicare, medicaid, and personal insurance or other similar health care benefits.

(b) Third party does not include:

(i) a managed care organization administering a mental health managed care program under contract with the department; or

(ii) a financially responsible person.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1602; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 413, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 405, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2003.**

53-1-402. Residents and financially responsible persons liable for cost of care. (1) A resident and a financially responsible person are liable to the department for the resident's cost of care as provided in this part. The cost of care includes the applicable per diem and ancillary charges or all-inclusive rate charges for the care of residents in the following institutions:

(a) Montana state hospital;
(b) Montana developmental center;
(c) Montana veterans' home;
(d) eastern Montana veterans' home;
(e) southwestern Montana veterans' home;
(f) Montana mental health nursing care center; and
(g) Montana chemical dependency treatment center.

(2) The eastern Montana veterans' home and the southwestern Montana veterans' home may assess charges on either a per diem and ancillary charge basis or an all-inclusive rate basis if the department contracts with a private vendor to operate the facility as provided for in 10-2-416.

(3) The Montana state hospital and the Montana mental health nursing care center may determine the cost of care using an all-inclusive rate or per diem and ancillary charges if the department contracts with a private entity to operate a mental health managed care program.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1601; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 283, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 683, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 305, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 190, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 575, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 461, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 3, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 393, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Disability insurance — coverage of services at state institutions — may not be excluded, 33-22-112.

53-1-403. Rules. In addition to the specific provisions of this part that require the department to adopt rules, the department may adopt rules to implement this part. All rules adopted by the department under the provisions of this part must be adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. 80-1606 by Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1606; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 190, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-1-404. Department to review and establish per diem charge. The per diem charge for the fiscal year must be reviewed on or before October 1 of each year by the department and may be reviewed at additional times during the year as considered appropriate by the department. If the review indicates that the costs of an institution have changed substantially since the last review, the per diem charge must be adjusted to compensate for those changes.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 594, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 190, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2007.**

53-1-405. Monthly payment amount. (1) A resident and a financially responsible person are liable for the resident's cost of care in an amount that the department determines that the resident or financially responsible person is able to pay. The department shall determine ability to pay based upon financial information and documentation obtained by the department through an investigation conducted as provided in 53-1-406.

(2) The department shall adopt rules that establish criteria and procedures for determining ability to pay. The criteria established by rules adopted under this section must address factors relevant to the person's ability to pay, including but not limited to:

(a) the amount of the resident's or financially responsible person's income, including the anticipated receipt of retroactive benefits, such as veteran's benefits or social security benefits;

(b) the amount of the resident's or financially responsible person's assets, including the availability of assets that are liquid or that are able to be readily converted to cash;

(c) the amount of the resident's or financially responsible person's fixed expenses for reasonable and necessary housing, utilities, transportation, medical care, food, and clothing;

(d) the amount of the resident's or financially responsible person's taxes and other mandatory payments, such as social security withholdings, insurance, child support, restitution, and court-ordered payments;

(e) the number of persons dependent upon the resident or financially responsible person for support;

(f) the amount of the resident's or financially responsible person's discretionary income;

(g) the resident's personal needs requirements while in the institution; and

(h) the extent to which requirement of a particular monthly payment or any monthly payment would impose an undue financial burden on the resident or financially responsible person.

(3) The department may determine ability to pay and assess charges up to the full cost of care but may require monthly payments in a lesser amount based upon:

(a) a resident's or financially responsible person's income-producing assets, such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, or other similar assets;

(b) real property of the resident or the resident's spouse if:

(i) the property has been listed or advertised for sale, unless the sale proceeds are or will be used to purchase a home within 18 months or are used for primary residence living expenses; or

(ii) the property is not occupied as the home of the resident, the resident's spouse, or a dependent child or parent of the resident or the resident's spouse and if there is no reasonable expectation that the resident, the resident's spouse, or a dependent child or parent of the resident or the resident's spouse will return to occupy the property as a home; or

(c) the anticipated receipt of retroactive benefits, such as veteran's benefits or social security benefits.

(4) If the department has determined an ability to pay and has assessed charges but has required monthly payments in a lesser amount as provided in subsection (3), the department may bill and collect all or a part of the accumulated difference between the assessed charges and the minimum payment amount:

(a) upon sale or liquidation of the assets or real property;

(b) upon the actual receipt of retroactive benefits, such as veteran's benefits or social security benefits;

(c) upon determination of a current ability to pay; or

(d) from the resident's or financially responsible person's estate as provided in 53-1-412.

(5) The department may not require payment of a monthly amount that would place an undue financial burden on the resident or financially responsible person.

(6) The department shall refund to the resident or financially responsible person any payment made to the department for any month to the extent that the total payments received from the resident, financially responsible person, and third party exceed the resident's cost of care for that month.

(7) The fact that a managed care organization contracting with the department to administer a mental health managed care program is or may be liable to pay or has paid an amount to an institution with respect to the resident does not reduce or otherwise affect the

resident's or financially responsible person's obligation to pay for the cost of care as provided in this part.

(8) The department shall provide a written notice and an opportunity for a hearing regarding a department determination of ability to pay to any resident or financially responsible person who is determined able to pay.

(9) In addition to providing the notice required by subsection (8), the department shall bill the resident or financially responsible person monthly for the amount determined in accordance with this section. The bill must state the amount due for the current month, the amount of any payments received during the billing cycle, and the total amount of unpaid costs of care that the department has determined the resident or financially responsible person is able to pay. The bill need not state the current or accrued full cost of care that is or would be payable by a third party.

(10) This section may not be construed to reduce the liability of a third party for the resident's full cost of care as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 594, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

53-1-406. Investigation of ability to pay. (1) Before determining an ability to pay under 53-1-405, the department shall investigate each resident's and each financially responsible person's ability to pay. For purposes of the investigation, the determination of ability to pay, or any later review or redetermination, the department may require the resident or financially responsible person to complete, sign, and submit financial information and documentation, including financial statements on a form supplied by the department.

(2) Each agency of the state shall provide to the department all reasonable assistance and all requested information and documents necessary for the financial investigation of residents or financially responsible persons. The department of revenue may not provide confidential tax return information to the department without the consent of the taxpayer.

(3) Upon request of the department, the resident or financially responsible person shall make available to the department and shall cooperate with the department in obtaining any financial information and documentation that the department considers essential for the purpose of determining ability to pay and that, under federal law, the department is not prohibited from seeking or obtaining from the resident or financially responsible person. The information and documentation that the department is entitled to receive include but are not limited to:

(a) income statements and verification;

(b) liability statements and verification;

(c) tax returns and related forms, documents, and records, but the department of revenue may not provide confidential tax return information to the department without the consent of the taxpayer;

(d) asset statements and descriptions, including valuation appraisals;

(e) records of a bank or other financial institution, including account balances, loan statements, account ownership information, and transaction records;

(f) expense statements and verification;

(g) financial statements, including existing financial statements and financial statements on forms provided by the department;

(h) releases authorizing the department to obtain information or documents directly from an employer, creditor, federal agency, financial institution, or other person or entity; and

(i) any other information or documentation necessary to the determination.

(4) If a resident or financially responsible person fails to provide or cooperate in obtaining the financial information or documentation requested by the department, the department may make a determination of ability to pay based upon any information or documentation available to the department, including a determination of ability to pay up to the full cost of care. The determination is effective until the requested information and documentation are provided and the department makes a new determination of ability to pay, taking into consideration the additional information and documentation.

(5) In a hearing under 53-1-407, if a hearings examiner determines that information or documentation is relevant and admissible and orders the resident or financially responsible

person to produce it and if the resident or financially responsible person fails or refuses to produce that information or documentation, a determination of ability to pay the full cost of care may be affirmed or payment of the full cost of care ordered, regardless of other information presented.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(3); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.
Obligations of parents for support and education of their children, 40-6-211.
Duties of parents to maintain children, 40-6-214.

53-1-407. Appeal of determination of ability to pay. A resident or financially responsible person aggrieved by a determination of ability to pay under 53-1-405 may request a hearing pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 495, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 283, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

53-1-408. Periodic review by department of ability to pay. (1) The department shall review at least annually each determination of ability to pay, and if there has been a significant change in a resident's or financially responsible person's ability to pay, the department shall make a new determination.

(2) In addition to the annual review required by subsection (1), the department shall review a determination of ability to pay upon the request of a resident or financially responsible person if the person provides the department with documentation of a changed circumstance that would substantially affect the amount determined under 53-1-405.

(3) A new determination of ability to pay may not be applied retroactively unless:

(a) the new determination results in a monthly payment amount that is less than the previous monthly payment amount; or

(b) the resident or financially responsible person has misrepresented or failed to provide any financial information or documentation that the person was obligated to provide under 53-1-406 and unless the resident or financially responsible person would have been required to pay a higher monthly amount based upon consideration of the complete and correct information and documentation.

(4) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section, including but not limited to rules for credit or refund of any overpayment resulting from an assessment retroactively reduced because of a new determination of ability to pay.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(5); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

53-1-409. Limitations on liability of resident or financially responsible person for cost of care. (1) The resident or financially responsible person is liable only for the cost of care that the department has determined that the person is able to pay and for which the department has billed the resident or financially responsible person. If the amount payable is retroactively reduced because of a new determination of ability to pay, the resident or financially responsible person shall pay only the reduced amount for the period of time covered by the retroactive reduction.

(2) The natural or adoptive parents of a long-term resident may not be required to pay for the resident's cost of care in an amount exceeding the cost of caring for a normal child at home as determined and updated annually by the department based upon the annual cost of raising a child, as estimated by the United States department of agriculture.

(3) The natural or adoptive parents of a long-term resident may not be required to pay for the resident's cost of care for periods after the resident attains 18 years of age.

(4) This section may not be construed to reduce the liability of a third party for a resident's full cost of care as provided in this part.

History: (1), (4)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; Sec. 80-1603, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 80-1605 by Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 450, L. 1977; Sec. 80-1605, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(6), (7), 80-1605; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 594, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 35, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 190, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Obligations of parents for support and education of their children, 40-6-211.
Duties of parents to maintain children, 40-6-214.

53-1-410. Nonpayment not grounds for discharge. A resident of an institution listed in 53-1-402 may not be discharged by reason of the nonpayment of the resident's cost of care unless, by certification of a physician consulted by the superintendent of the institution, the discharge is medically advisable.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1603(8); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

53-1-411. Collections from residents and financially responsible persons. (1) If a resident or financially responsible person refuses or fails to pay the amount required under this part, any amount remaining unpaid 30 days after the department mails a written demand for payment may be collected:

(a) by the department in any manner allowed by law for the collection of debts; or

(b) by the department of administration in the manner set forth in Title 17, chapter 4, for the collection of debts owing to the state or by a civil suit brought by the department of administration in the name of the state.

(2) A resident's death or discharge from an institution does not reduce or eliminate the obligation of any person to pay an amount required under this part.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1604(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 35, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 589, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

53-1-412. Collections from estates. (1) The department has a claim against the estate of a resident and against the estate of a financially responsible person for the amounts that the department determined that the resident or financially responsible person was able to pay under 53-1-405, less any amounts actually paid by the resident, a financially responsible person, or a third party.

(2) The fact that a managed care organization contracting with the department to administer a mental health managed care program is or may be liable to pay or has paid an amount to an institution with respect to the resident does not reduce or otherwise affect the estate's obligation to pay for the cost of care as provided in this part.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the department's claim under this section is enforceable against an estate after the death of a resident or financially responsible person. The department's claim is timely if presented within the time specified in the published notice to creditors in the probate proceeding.

(4) The department's claim under subsection (1) may be enforced only to the extent that enforcement does not deprive a surviving spouse or dependent child or parent of the resident or financially responsible person of:

(a) an amount necessary for reasonable living expenses or educational expenses; or

(b) real estate while it is occupied as a home by the surviving spouse or dependent child or parent of the resident or financially responsible person.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1604(2); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 190, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Creditors' claims against estate, Title 72, ch. 3, part 8.

53-1-413. Deposit of payments and collections. (1) Except as provided in 90-7-220, 90-7-221, and this section, the department shall deposit payments and collections of charges for a resident's cost of care in the state treasury to the credit of the general fund.

(2) Payments and collections for services provided to residents of the Montana veterans' homes must be deposited in the special revenue account for the benefit of the homes. Payments and collections for services provided to residents of the Montana chemical dependency treatment center must be deposited in the state special revenue account for the facility.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1604(3); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 594, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 819, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 557, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 190, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 461, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

53-1-414. Automatic assignment of resident's resources from third party. (1) Upon the provision of care to a resident, the resident is considered to have assigned to the department all third-party payments, benefits, and resources applicable to the resident's care.

(2) The department is entitled to all third-party payments, benefits, and resources assigned under this section upon demand and the submission of supporting documentation from the department to the third party. The department is entitled to collect from the third party the full amount payable by the third party, up to the resident's full cost of care. Collection is not limited to the amount that the resident or financially responsible person has been determined able to pay under 53-1-405.

(3) The fact that a managed care organization contracting with the department to administer a mental health managed care program is or may be liable to pay or has paid an amount to an institution with respect to the resident does not reduce or otherwise affect the third party's obligation to pay for the cost of care as provided in this part.

(4) The department may assign its rights under this section to a managed care organization contracting with the department to administer a mental health managed care program.

(5) If a third party that has been notified of the department's or managed care organization's claim under this section pays benefits, resources, or other amounts to a resident, financially responsible person, or another person or entity without satisfying the department's or managed care organization's claim, the third party is liable to the department or to the managed care organization for the amount that the department or managed care organization was entitled to receive under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 190, L. 1997.**

Part 5
Per Diem Payments for Residential Correctional Programs

53-1-501. Rates for residential community correctional program board, room, and services charged by the department of corrections. (1) The department of corrections shall establish per diem rates for room, board, and services for persons placed in or committed to a community correctional program operated by the department of corrections. The department of corrections may adopt rules allowing it to order part of a person's employment income to be used to pay restitution, fines, and child or spousal support.

(2) The department of corrections shall prescribe rules and procedures for the establishment of rates and charges to residents or participants in any community correctional program that is under contract with the department of corrections and that provides room, board, or services or any combination of room, board, and services to residents of those facilities or to participants in programs. The amount assessed by these programs must be subject to the resident's ability to pay, based on the rates established as the basis for assessed charges, and subject to approval by the department of corrections.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 406, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 517, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Powers and duties of Department of Corrections — prerelease centers, 53-1-203.
Community corrections, Title 53, ch. 30, part 3.
Defendant to bear expense of alternative imprisonment — alcohol-related offenses, 61-8-734.

53-1-502. Rates for board, room, and ancillary services charged to correctional facility inmates. (1) The department of corrections may establish and charge reasonable rates for board, room, and ancillary services as described in 53-1-401 for persons incarcerated in an institutional correctional facility.

(2) The department of corrections may prescribe rules that establish criteria and a procedure for determining ability to pay. The department of corrections may not make an assessment that would place an undue financial burden on the person.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 407, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 6

Department of Public Health and Human Services

53-1-601. Purpose of department of public health and human services. The department of public health and human services shall use to maximum efficiency the resources of state government in a coordinated effort to:

(1) develop and maintain comprehensive services and programs in the fields of:

(a) mental health; and

(b) chemical dependency;

(2) provide, according to the requirements of Title 53, chapter 20, inpatient institutional care for persons with developmental disabilities who require institutional care; and

(3) provide nursing home care for honorably discharged veterans as provided by law.

History: **En. Sec. 398, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services, 2-15-2201.
Montana veterans' homes, Title 10, ch. 2, part 4.
Developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20.
Mentally ill, Title 53, ch. 21.
Alcoholism and drug dependence, Title 53, ch. 24.

53-1-602. Department of public health and human services. (1) The following components are in the department of public health and human services to carry out the purposes of the department:

(a) mental health services, consisting of the following institutional components for care and treatment of the mentally ill pursuant to Title 53, chapter 21:

(i) the Montana state hospital; and

(ii) the Montana mental health nursing care center;

(b) a community services component, consisting of appropriate services for the care and treatment of the mentally ill pursuant to Title 53, chapter 21, part 10;

(c) chemical dependency services, consisting of appropriate detoxification, inpatient, intensive outpatient, outpatient, prevention, education, and other necessary chemical dependency services pursuant to Title 53, chapter 24;

(d) an institutional and residential component of the developmental disabilities system for those persons with developmental disabilities who require institutional or residential care according to Title 53, chapter 20, which component consists of the Montana developmental center; and

(e) the veterans' nursing homes for the nursing home and domiciliary care of honorably discharged veterans as provided by law, consisting of:

(i) the Montana veterans' home;

(ii) the eastern Montana veterans' home at Glendive; and

(iii) the southwestern Montana veterans' home.

(2) A state institution may not be moved, discontinued, or abandoned without the consent of the legislature.

History: **En. Sec. 399, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. sec. 6, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 575, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 461, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Montana veterans' homes, Title 10, ch. 2, part 4.
Montana Developmental Center and Eastmont Human Services Center, Title 53, ch. 20, part 5.
Community-based nursing homes — powers of Department of Public Health and Human Services, 53-21-402.
Location and function of Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center, 53-21-411.
Montana State Hospital, Title 53, ch. 21, part 6.

53-1-603. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services. The department of public health and human services shall:

(1) adopt rules for the admission, custody, transfer, and release of persons in department programs except as otherwise provided by law. However, rules adopted by the department may not amend or alter the statutory powers and duties of the board of pardons and parole.

(2) subject to the functions of the department of administration, lease or purchase lands for use by institutions and classify those lands to determine those that may be most profitably used for agricultural purposes, taking into consideration the needs of all institutions for the food products that can be grown or produced on the lands and the relative value of agricultural programs in the treatment or rehabilitation of the persons confined in the institutions;

(3) use the staff and services of other state agencies and units of the Montana university system, within their respective statutory functions, to carry out its functions under this title;

(4) propose programs to the legislature to meet the projected long-range needs of institutions, including programs and facilities for the diagnosis, treatment, care, and aftercare of persons placed in institutions; and

(5) encourage the establishment of programs at the local level for the prevention and rehabilitation of disabilities as they relate to mental illness and chemical dependency.

History: En. Sec. 400, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-1-604. Responsibility of superintendents of institutions. The superintendents of institutions in the department of public health and human services are responsible for the immediate management and control of their respective institutions, subject to the general policies and programs established by the department.

History: En. Sec. 401, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-1-605 through 53-1-609 reserved.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Probation, parole, and clemency, Title 46, ch. 23.

53-1-610. Refinancing by department. The department of public health and human services shall seek federal funds to offset general fund expenditures to the maximum extent possible. The cost of administration and any supporting contract efforts to claim federal funds above historic levels must be funded from anticipated and realized savings from refinancing work in the department of public health and human services. To the extent that the department of public health and human services is involved in refinancing work in other departments, the department of public health and human services shall receive a share of savings generated in those departments through work conducted by the department of public health and human services, in an amount at least equal to the cost of conducting the work.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 576, L. 2003.

53-1-611. Evaluation of proposed medicaid block grant and acceptance of grant. (1) As part of its refinancing duties, the department of public health and human services shall evaluate the proposed medicaid block grant and report its findings with respect to the criteria in subsection (2) to the legislative finance committee at each regular meeting of the committee. At the end of the interim, the department shall provide a copy of or a link to the last report provided to the finance committee to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(2) The department shall use the following criteria in its evaluation of the proposed medicaid block grant compared to other medicaid funding alternatives from which the state may choose:

(a) total cost to the state over the life of the block grant and during each year of the block grant compared to the state cost of maintaining medicaid eligibility and service levels funded by the legislature during the current biennium;

(b) types of flexibility;

(c) advantages and disadvantages; and

(d) policy choices that may occur.

(3) (a) The legislative finance committee shall review and analyze the department's findings and make a recommendation to the governor and to the department with regard to

acceptance or rejection of the block grant if the state is required to make a decision as to whether to accept or reject the block grant prior to the next regular convening of the legislature.

(b) The governor shall consider the recommendation of the legislative finance committee and provide a written rationale to the committee if the recommendation of the committee is not followed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 576, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

53-1-612. Use of funding obtained by refinancing. (1) It is the intent of the legislature that general fund savings generated through the refinancing work described in 53-1-610 be applied in the following priority:

(a) the savings must be applied to fund the refinancing activities;

(b) the department of public health and human services may retain funds to maintain existing services; and

(c) the department of public health and human services may use funds to reinstate services that have been cut during the 2003 biennium.

(2) Additional funds generated through refinancing savings, beyond those used pursuant to subsection (1), revert to the general fund. Prior to reinstating services pursuant to subsection (1)(c), the department shall receive approval from the office of budget and program planning of its service reinstatement plan.

(3) The provisions of 17-2-108 that require the expenditure of nongeneral fund money prior to the expenditure of general fund money do not apply to the expenditure of revenue made available to the department because of the refinancing efforts required by 53-1-610.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 576, L. 2003.

Part 7
Statewide 2-1-1 System

53-1-701. Findings — purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the implementation of a system using a single, easy-to-use telephone number, 2-1-1, for public access to information and referral for safety, health, or human services and for information about access to services after a disaster or emergency will benefit the citizens of the state of Montana by providing easier access to available services, by efficiently connecting people with the desired service providers, and by reducing duplication of efforts.

(2) The legislature finds that a statewide 2-1-1 system will facilitate public access to information and referral for safety, health, and human services and for disaster or emergency prevention or response information and will make our state's communities safer, stronger, and better-prepared to respond to threats of domestic and international terrorism and domestic emergency situations of all natures.

(3) The purposes of this part are to:

(a) establish an implementation plan for a statewide 2-1-1 system to provide public access to information and referral for disaster, emergency, safety, health, and human services;

(b) ensure that the system is free from undue political interference and conflicts of interest;

(c) provide that 2-1-1 services are delivered by qualified and competent agencies in a manner that is fair and consistent throughout the state;

(d) establish a system that utilizes state employees, contracted services, or other methods of providing services in a manner that is responsive to and respective of regional and community needs and interests as funding allows; and

(e) ensure that funding of the statewide 2-1-1 system is provided and managed in a fiscally responsible manner.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-702. Statewide 2-1-1 system. The dialing code of 2-1-1 is created as the official state dialing code for public access to information and referral for safety, health, and human services and information about access to services in the event of a disaster or emergency.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-703. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Approved 2-1-1 service provider" means a public or nonprofit agency or organization designated by the department to provide 2-1-1 services.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(3) "2-1-1" means the abbreviated dialing code assigned by the federal communications commission on July 21, 2000, for consumer access to community information and referral services.

(4) "2-1-1 service area" means an area of the state of Montana identified by the department as an area in which an approved 2-1-1 service provider will provide 2-1-1 services.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 548, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

53-1-704. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-705. New public information services — state agencies. Before a state agency that provides disaster, emergency, safety, health, or human services starts a new public information telephone line or hotline, the state agency shall consult with the department about using the statewide 2-1-1 system to provide public access to the information. If it is determined that the statewide 2-1-1 system can provide the public information at a lower cost than the establishment of a new telephone line or hotline and that the service fits within the scope of 2-1-1 service, the state agency shall provide funding to the statewide 2-1-1 system to provide the public information service. The funds must be deposited in the state special revenue account established in 53-1-712. The funding amount must be determined based on the funds available, the nature of the information, and the expected call volume.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-706 through 53-1-709 reserved.

53-1-710. Approved 2-1-1 service providers. (1) Only an approved service provider may provide 2-1-1 telephone services after July 1, 2006. The department shall approve 2-1-1 service providers after considering the following:

(a) the ability of the proposed 2-1-1 service provider to meet the national 2-1-1 standards recommended by the alliance of information and referral systems and adopted by the national 2-1-1 collaborative in October 2002;

(b) the financial stability of the proposed 2-1-1 service provider;

(c) the community support for the proposed 2-1-1 service provider;

(d) the proposed 2-1-1 service provider's relationships with other information and referral services;

(e) the proposed 2-1-1 service provider's record of providing existing 2-1-1 services; and

(f) the proposed 2-1-1 service area.

(2) An existing 2-1-1 service provider may apply for the geographical area in which the service provider is currently approved to offer 2-1-1 telephone services.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 548, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

53-1-711. Scope of 2-1-1 service. (1) The statewide 2-1-1 system shall ensure provision of services in all counties of the state.

(2) The statewide 2-1-1 system must be administered by the department. The department shall approve a strategic plan for service delivery and divide the state into no more than eight regions.

(3) The statewide 2-1-1 system shall ensure that all approved 2-1-1 service providers provide the following scope of service:

(a) provide information and referral services to each inquirer for the inquirer's designated geographic area through well-trained staff or volunteers who are knowledgeable about local resources;

(b) create and maintain a database of community resources and referrals for the service provider's designated geographic area;

(c) provide appropriate services to crisis callers, which include stabilization or safety assessment and connection to further resources such as crisis lines, domestic violence shelters, and rape victim advocates;

(d) provide information to the department regarding 2-1-1 service usage, including data on callers, service needs, and resource gaps;

(e) provide support to community and disaster and emergency services providers in the case of a disaster or emergency; and

(f) participate in any publicity plan for the statewide 2-1-1 system in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 548, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

53-1-712. State special revenue fund 2-1-1 account. There is a 2-1-1 account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account may be spent only after appropriation. The 2-1-1 account must include any funding for the statewide 2-1-1 system as appropriated by the legislature or received through private contributions and other sources. Expenditures from the 2-1-1 account may be used only for the implementation and support of the statewide 2-1-1 system. Monetary savings realized by the department when converting existing resource and referral lines to the statewide 2-1-1 system must be deposited in the special revenue account.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-713. Eligible activities. (1) The department shall provide for the study, design, implementation, and support of a statewide 2-1-1 system. The department may contract with one or more private organizations for any or all of the study, design, implementation, or support of a statewide 2-1-1 system.

(2) The department may provide for the following activities that are eligible for assistance from the 2-1-1 account provided for in 53-1-712:

(a) creating a structure for a statewide 2-1-1 resources database that will meet the standards of the alliance for information and referral systems for information and referral systems databases and that will be integrated with local resources databases maintained by approved 2-1-1 service providers;

(b) developing a statewide resources database for the statewide 2-1-1 system;

(c) maintaining public information available from state agencies and programs that provide disaster, emergency, safety, health, or human services for access by approved 2-1-1 service providers;

(d) providing grants to approved 2-1-1 service providers for the design, development, and implementation of 2-1-1 services for its 2-1-1 service area; and

(e) providing grants to approved 2-1-1 service providers to provide 2-1-1 services on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis and on an ongoing basis.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

53-1-714. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 548, L. 2005.

CHAPTER 2
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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Chapter Cross-References

Provision of economic assistance to misfortunate, Art. XII, sec. 3(3), Mont. Const.

Part 1
General Provisions

53-2-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 22.

(2) "Needy person" is one who is eligible for public assistance under the laws of this state.

(3) "Protective services" means services to children and adults to be provided by the department as permitted by Titles 41 and 53.

(4) "Public assistance" or "assistance" means any type of monetary or other assistance furnished under this title to a person by a state or county agency, regardless of the original source of the assistance.

(5) "Section 1115 waiver" means an experimental, pilot, research, or demonstration project, subject to approval by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, authorized by section 1115 of Title XI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315, for which certain requirements of the Social Security Act are waived.

(6) "Section 1915 waiver" means a waiver of certain medicaid requirements, subject to approval by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services under section 1915 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n, for the purposes of managing health care through restrictions on access to providers or for establishing programs of home and community-based services.

History: (1), (2)En. 71-201.1 by Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-201.1, R.C.M. 1947; (3), (4)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1977; Sec. 71-235, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Subd. (h), Sec. 7, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-211, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-201.1, 71-211(part), 71-235(2); amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 408, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 2005.

53-2-102. State treasurer to receive funds. The treasurer of the state of Montana is hereby designated as the appropriate fiscal officer of the state to receive federal funds. All money for public assistance purposes appropriated by the legislature, received from the United States government, or received from any other source shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Part 8, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 210, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-901.

Cross-References

General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.

53-2-103. Records and reports. (1) Each local office of public assistance shall keep records and make reports in the detail that the department requires and shall transmit to the department upon its request copies of applications and any other records pertaining to any case.

(2) The department shall keep the records in the form and containing the information that the federal social security board requires and shall comply with the provisions that the federal board finds necessary to ensure the correctness and verification of the reports.

History: En. Sec. 20, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 129, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 71-231; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Public records generally, Title 2, ch. 6, part 10.
Local offices of public assistance, Title 53, ch. 2, part 3.

53-2-104. Audit of public assistance records. All applications, information, and records concerning any applicant or recipient of assistance or services under this title are subject to audit for legislative oversight or determination of public assistance fraud.

History: En. 71-231.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-231.4; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Information from state agencies, 5-13-309.

Confidentiality of tax records — information available concerning applicants for public assistance, 15-30-2618.

53-2-105. Misuse of public assistance information unlawful. Except as provided in 53-2-211, it is unlawful for a person, body, association, firm, corporation, or other agency to solicit, disclose, receive, or make use of or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in, or acquiesce in the use of lists or names for commercial or political purposes of any nature or for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of public assistance. However, the department may, to the extent permitted by federal law, disclose public assistance information to an agency of the state or to any other organization if the information is used solely for purposes directly connected with the administration of a program or purpose of the agency.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 71-231.2; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 410, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 491, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Confidentiality of tax records — information available concerning applicants for public assistance, 15-30-2618.

53-2-106. Penalty for misuse of public assistance information. Any person, body, association, corporation, firm, or other agency who shall willfully or knowingly violate any provision of 53-2-105 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $1,000, to which may be added imprisonment in the county jail for any determinate period not to exceed 60 days. If the violation is by other than an individual, the imprisonment may be adjusted against any officer, agent, employee, servant, or other person of the association, corporation, firm, or other agency who committed or participated in such violation and is found guilty thereof.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 71-231.3.

Cross-References

Confidentiality of tax records — information available concerning applicants for public assistance, 15-30-2618.

53-2-107. Fraudulent obtaining of public assistance treated as theft. Whoever knowingly obtains by means of a willfully false statement, representation, or impersonation or other fraudulent device public assistance to which the person is not entitled is guilty of theft as provided in 45-6-301.

History: En. Sec. 15, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-226; amd. Sec. 1903, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

Liability for acts committed by or for another, Title 45, ch. 2, part 3.

Conspiracy, 45-4-102.

Crime of unauthorized acquisition or transfer of food stamps, 45-6-312.

Perjury and other falsification in official matters, Title 45, ch. 7, part 2.

53-2-108. Overpayment of assistance — department errors involving food stamps — civil penalty when fraud. (1) If, because of department or recipient error, a recipient receives public assistance for which the recipient is not eligible, the portion of payment that the recipient is not entitled to receive may be returned at the discretion of the department.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), a recipient who receives an overpayment of food stamp benefits because of a department error in processing or administering the recipient's case is not required to repay the department for the overpayment if:

(i) the recipient notifies the department of the potential error; and

(ii) the department informs the recipient that no error occurred or fails to respond to the notification within 30 days.

(b) If a federal agency seeks repayment of an overpayment of food stamps in a case meeting the provisions of subsection (2)(a):

(i) the department is considered a person connected to the household for purposes of 7 CFR 273.18 and is liable for reimbursing the federal claim for the overpayment; and

(ii) the recipient is exempt from the unemployment withholding requirements of 39-51-2208.

(3) If a person obtains any part of an assistance payment through fraudulent means as specified in 53-2-107, 125% of the amount of assistance to which the person was not entitled must be repaid and, until fully paid, is a debt due the state.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 205, L. 2007.**

53-2-109. Recipients to report changes in factors affecting eligibility. Recipients of public assistance shall notify the department of any change or anticipated change in income, resources, household composition, or other factor that may affect eligibility for public assistance or the benefit amount within the period of time specified by the department by rule. Failure of the department to verify information provided by the recipient does not absolve the recipient from the obligation to provide accurate information to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 486, L. 1997.**

53-2-110. Payment of debts to department. If money is due and owing the department, a payment due under Title 40, chapter 5, part 2, 4, 7, or 9, or under this chapter that is accompanied by or bears any notation by the debtor that the payment represents payment in full is not full payment, notwithstanding the department's acceptance of the payment, unless the department signs a written agreement that the payment is payment in full.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 631, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 2009.**

53-2-111. Coordination of certain workforce development programs — requirement for agreement between agencies. (1) The department shall enter into agreements with the department of labor and industry concerning the administration and coordination of the following workforce development programs:

(a) the employment and training program provided for in 53-2-903;

(b) the cash assistance employment and training program provided for in Title 53, chapter 4;

(c) blind and low-vision services provided for in Title 53, chapter 7, part 3; and

(d) vocational rehabilitation training, including counseling, advocacy, and assistive technology, provided for in Title 53, chapter 7, part 1.

(2) The department shall ensure that agreements entered into under subsection (1) are consistent with the requirements of federal rules and regulations that are applicable to the programs contained in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d).

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 2001.**

Part 2
Department of Public Health and Human Services

53-2-201. Powers and duties of department. (1) The department shall:

(a) administer and supervise public assistance, including the provision of food stamps, food commodities, cash assistance and nonfinancial assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, energy assistance, weatherization, vocational rehabilitation, services for persons with severe disabilities, developmental disability services, medical care payments in behalf of recipients of public assistance, employment and training services for recipients of public assistance, and other programs as necessary to strengthen and preserve families;

(b) give consultant service to private institutions providing care for adults who are needy, indigent, or dependent or who have disabilities;

(c) cooperate with other state agencies and develop provisions for services to the blind, including the prevention of blindness, the location of blind persons, medical services for eye conditions, and vocational guidance and training of the blind;

(d) organize and supervise the local offices of public assistance in an efficient and economical manner;

(e) assist and cooperate with other state and federal departments, bureaus, agencies, and institutions, when requested, by performing services in conformity with public assistance purposes;

(f) administer all state and federal funds allocated to the department for public assistance and do all things necessary, in conformity with federal and state law, for the proper fulfillment of public assistance purposes;

(g) make rules governing payment for services and supplies provided to recipients of public assistance; and

(h) adopt rules regarding assignment of monetary and medical support upon application for cash assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, and related medical assistance.

(2) The department may:

(a) purchase, exchange, condemn, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, or receive by gift either real or personal property that is necessary to carry out its public assistance functions. Title to property obtained under this subsection must be taken in the name of the state of Montana for the use and benefit of the department.

(b) contract with the federal government to carry out its public assistance functions and comply with requirements for receiving federal aid and assistance; and

(c) make rules, consistent with state and federal law, establishing the amount, scope, and duration of services to be provided to recipients of public assistance.

History: En. Subd. (a) to (g), Sec. 7, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-210; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 8, 42, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Procurement generally, Title 18, ch. 4.
Policy regarding child abuse, neglect, and dependency, 41-3-101.
Responsibility of providing child protective services, 41-3-302.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.
Children's services, Title 52, ch. 2.
Powers and duties related to youth care facilities, 52-2-602.
Community-based long-term care facilities — powers and duties of Department, 53-6-402.

53-2-202. Attorney general to act as legal adviser to department. The attorney general of the state shall act as legal adviser to the department, shall perform such legal services as may be required, and may employ such other and additional counsel as may be necessary for this purpose and fix the compensation therefor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-207; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 38, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Attorney General, Title 2, ch. 15, part 5.

53-2-203. Department to supervise public assistance personnel. The department shall supervise the appointment, dismissal, and entire status of the public assistance personnel attached to local offices of public assistance.

History: En. 71-210.1 by Sec. 21, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-210.1; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
State employee classification, compensation, and benefits, Title 2, ch. 18.

53-2-204. Renumbered 52-1-104. Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

53-2-205. Department authorized to establish and collect social services fees. (1) The department is authorized to establish and collect fees for social services furnished which are authorized pursuant to Title XX of the Social Security Act, Public Law 93-647. Such fees shall be based on a schedule determined by the department.

(2) The state share of fees provided by subsection (1) shall be paid to the state treasurer for the credit of the state special revenue fund for the use of the department in providing social services.

History: En. 71-210.4, 71-210.5 by Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 206, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-210.4, 71-210.5; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

Cross-References
Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

53-2-206. Department to act as agent of federal government. The department shall act as the agent of the federal government in public assistance matters of mutual concern in conformity with this title and the federal Social Security Act and in the administration of any federal funds granted to the state to aid in the purposes and functions of the department.

History: **En. Subd. (h), Sec. 7, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-211(1).**

Cross-References
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

53-2-207. Power of department in administering state and federal funds. In administering or supervising any state or federal funds appropriated or made available to the department for public assistance purposes, the department may:

(1) make use of all legal processes to enforce the standards prescribed for public assistance purposes by the department; and

(2) require that each part of the public assistance laws be in effect in all counties of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-212; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002.**

Cross-References
Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-2-208. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 413, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2013.**

53-2-209. Olmstead plan — stakeholder involvement — elements. (1) The department shall develop and implement a plan to ensure that state-funded services and supports for Montanans with disabilities are, to the greatest extent possible, provided in the community rather than in an institutional setting in accordance with the requirements of the United States supreme court decision in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999).

(2) The department shall consult with the statewide independent living council established pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 796d and, as appropriate, other stakeholders prior to determining the process for developing a comprehensive plan for reviewing and making recommendations on department-funded, community-based services for individuals with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities.

(3) The department may contract with a third party for development of the plan.

(4) The plan must include:

(a) an overview of the Olmstead decision;

(b) an analysis of the department's current efforts to integrate people with disabilities into the community and the department-funded services and supports available to people with disabilities, including:

(i) the populations currently served, by disability and geographic location;

(ii) the settings in which services are provided; and

(iii) expenditures made for the services and supports;

(c) an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the system, including but not limited to:

(i) an analysis of the number and location of people waiting for services;

(ii) workforce needs; and

(iii) suggestions from individuals receiving department-funded services and supports;

(d) recommendations for increasing the availability of and access to community-based services and supports, including:

(i) the steps needed to correct unjustified institutionalization of individuals with disabilities and prevent future unnecessary institutionalization of the individuals; and

(ii) measurable goals for increased availability and access; and

(e) the incorporation of quality assurance activities to ensure compliance with the principles of the Olmstead decision.

(5) The plan must take into consideration that community supports must be provided when required pursuant to Olmstead v. L.C.

(6) The department and any third-party contractor shall provide regular opportunities for stakeholder input into the development of the plan and for stakeholder comment on subsequent implementation of the plan.

(7) No later than June 30, 2029, and every 6 years after that, the department shall review the plan to ensure it remains consistent with the principles of the Olmstead decision.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 554, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

53-2-210 reserved.

53-2-211. Department to share eligibility data. (1) The department shall make available to the unemployment compensation program of the department of labor and industry all information contained in its files and records pertaining to eligibility of persons for medicaid, cash assistance and nonfinancial assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, and food stamps. The information made available must include information on the amount and source of an applicant's income. The information received from the department must be used by the department of labor and industry for the purpose of determining fraud, abuse, or eligibility for benefits under the unemployment compensation program of the state and for no other purpose.

(2) The department shall make available to the unemployment compensation and workers' compensation programs of the department of labor and industry all information contained in its files and records pertaining to eligibility of persons for low-income energy assistance and weatherization. The information made available must include information on the amount and source of an applicant's income. The information received from the department must be used by the department of labor and industry for the purpose of determining fraud, abuse, or eligibility for benefits under the unemployment compensation and workers' compensation programs of the state and for no other purpose.

(3) (a) Subject to federal restrictions, the department may request information from the department of labor and industry pertaining to unemployment, workers' compensation, and occupational disease benefits. If the department of labor and industry discovers evidence relating to fraud or abuse for unemployment, workers' compensation, or occupational benefits, the department of labor and industry may request information from the department of revenue pertaining to income as provided in 15-30-2618(8)(b).

(b) The information must be used by the department for the purpose of determining fraud, abuse, or eligibility for benefits.

(4) The department may, to the extent permitted by federal law, make available to an agency of the state or to any other organization information contained in its files and records pertaining to the eligibility of persons for medicaid, cash assistance and nonfinancial assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, food stamps, low-income energy assistance, weatherization, or other public assistance.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 41, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 503, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Unemployment insurance, Title 39, ch. 51.
Workers' compensation, Title 39, ch. 71.

53-2-212. Rate adequacy — plan for collection of data — reports. (1) The department of public health and human services, in collaboration with providers, consumers, and other stakeholders, shall develop a plan for collecting expenditure data from medicaid-dependent providers of services that:

(a) assist and support the elderly and persons with mental illness, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities; and

(b) are administered by the department divisions responsible for overseeing services for the elderly and persons with mental illness, physical disabilities, or developmental disabilities.

(2) The purpose of the plan is to enable the department and the legislature to:

(a) analyze the data;

(b) determine the cost of providing services;

(c) make sound judgments about whether the rates being paid for each service are too high, too low, or appropriate; and

(d) make decisions about rates that are based on sound data and analysis.

(3) The plan must:

(a) identify medicaid-dependent providers;

(b) identify high-volume services based on the units of service and costs;

(c) identify smaller providers who should be exempt from data reporting requirements;

(d) determine a base year for data collection and identify the types of expenditures and the providers who are required to report data in order to make it possible to analyze data and make determinations about rate adequacy;

(e) ensure that expenditure data reporting requirements are consistent across divisions of the department to the extent possible;

(f) identify how often data should be collected for purposes of updating the base year expenditures; and

(g) create a schedule prioritizing the order in which data is collected from various providers in order to transition to a point at which the information will be available regarding all applicable providers and will be updated on a regular basis.

(4) (a) The plan must be completed no later than July 1, 2022, and be provided to the 2023 legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(b) Beginning no later than September 1, 2021, the department shall provide quarterly updates to the 2021-2022 children, families, health, and human services interim committee regarding the progress being made in developing the plan.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "medicaid-dependent providers" means providers with more than half of their clients receiving services through the medicaid program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 2021.

53-2-213 and 53-2-214 reserved.

53-2-215. Social Security Act section 1115 waiver. (1) The department may pursue approval from the U.S. department of health and human services for implementation in Montana of a health insurance flexibility and accountability demonstration initiative and other demonstration projects through section 1115 waivers.

(2) The department may implement a demonstration project upon approval of a section 1115 waiver by the U.S. department of health and human services. The department may:

(a) coordinate a demonstration project with a program approved through a section 1915 waiver; or

(b) terminate and subsume in a new section 1115 waiver an existing managed care or access program approved through a section 1915(b) waiver, an optional state plan medicaid service authorized under 53-6-101, an optional state plan eligibility group authorized under 53-6-131, or an existing program approved by a section 1115 waiver that is administered by the department.

(3) The department may initiate and administer section 1115 waivers to more efficiently apply available state general fund money, other available state and local public and private funding, and federal money to the development and maintenance of medicaid-funded programs of health services and of other public assistance services and to structure those programs or services for more efficient and effective delivery to specific populations.

(4) (a) In establishing programs or services in a demonstration project approved through a section 1115 waiver, the department shall administer the expenditures under each demonstration project within the state spending authority that is available for that demonstration project. The department may limit enrollments in each program within a demonstration project, reduce the per capita expenditures available to enrollees, and modify and reduce the types and amounts of services available through each program when the department determines that expenditures can be reasonably expected to exceed the available state spending authority.

(b) The department shall develop a contingency plan if there is a spending cap as a condition of the waiver and the spending cap is exceeded. The contingency plan must address the effects on new programs, services, or eligibility groups.

(5) The department may coordinate the state children's health insurance program authorized under Title 53, chapter 4, part 10, with a section 1115 waiver for the purpose of increasing the state funding match available under the waiver and expanding the number of participants in the state children's health insurance program.

(6) The department, subject to the terms and conditions of the section 1115 waiver:

(a) shall establish the eligibility groups based upon the funding principles stated in 53-6-101(2);

(b) may provide medicaid coverage for one or more optional medicaid eligibility groups;

(c) may provide medicaid coverage for one or more specific populations of persons who are not within the federally authorized medicaid eligibility groups but who are within the requirements of subsection (7);

(d) may establish the service coverage, eligibility requirements, financial participation requirements, and other features for the administration and delivery of services to each section 1115 waiver eligibility group;

(e) shall set limits on the number of participants for each section 1115 waiver eligibility group;

(f) shall set limits on the total expenditures under each demonstration project; and

(g) shall set the limits on the total expenditures on the services to be provided to each section 1115 waiver eligibility group.

(7) The categories of persons that the department may consider for establishment as a section 1115 waiver eligibility group include but are not limited to:

(a) low-income parents of children who are eligible to participate in medicaid under 53-6-131 or in the state children's health insurance program authorized under Title 53, chapter 4, part 10;

(b) children who because of limits on enrollment may not be covered through the state children's health insurance program authorized under Title 53, chapter 4, part 10;

(c) children who are eligible to participate in the state children's health insurance program authorized under Title 53, chapter 4, part 10; and

(d) other specific groups of persons who are participants in programs or services funded solely or primarily through state general funds or who the department determines are in need of specific types of health care and related services, such as prescription drugs, reproductive health care, and mental health services, and are without adequate financial means to procure health insurance coverage of those needs.

(8) Children participating in a section 1115 waiver eligibility group or children who would be eligible to participate in the state children's health insurance program are subject to the eligibility criteria applicable under 53-4-1004, except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, for participation in the state children's health insurance program and must receive benefits as provided through the state children's health insurance program under 53-4-1005.

(9) (a) Except as provided in this subsection (9), the eligibility for the section 1115 waiver eligibility groups may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level.

(b) The department may establish eligibility at greater than 150% but no more than 200% of the federal poverty level for any of the following groups established for purposes of a section 1115 waiver:

(i) participants in the state children's health insurance program;

(ii) participants in a group that may be covered under the state children's health insurance program;

(iii) participants in a family planning program;

(iv) participants in a group composed of persons previously served through a program funded with state general fund money and other nonmedicaid money; or

(v) participants in a group composed of persons with a significant need for particular services that are not readily available to that population through insurance products or because of personal financial limitations.

(c) In establishing the eligibility criteria based upon federal poverty levels, the department shall select levels to ensure that the resulting expenditures will remain within the available funding and will conform with the terms and conditions of approval by the U.S. department of health and human services.

(d) The department may adopt additional programmatic and financial eligibility criteria for a section 1115 waiver eligibility group in order to appropriately define the subject population, to limit use for fiscal and programmatic purposes, to prevent improper use, and to conform the administration of the program with the terms and conditions of the section 1115 waiver.

(e) Eligibility criteria applicable to a section 1115 waiver eligibility group need not conform to the criteria applicable to another section 1115 waiver eligibility group or to a medicaid eligibility group that is not encompassed within the demonstration project.

(10) (a) For each section 1115 waiver eligibility group, the department shall establish the program benefit or benefits to be available to the participants in the group.

(b) Program benefits may be in the form of:

(i) assistance in the payment of health insurance premiums for health care coverage through an employer or other existing group coverage available to the program enrollee;

(ii) assistance in the payment of health insurance premiums for health care coverage that meets a set of defined standards and limitations adopted by the department in consultation with the commissioner of insurance and obtained from participating private insurers or through self-insured pools;

(iii) premium purchase for insurance coverage on behalf of children who are 18 years of age or younger for the defined set of health care and related services adopted by the department for the state children's health insurance program authorized in Title 53, chapter 4, part 10; or

(iv) coverage of a defined set of health care and related services administered directly by the department on a fee-for-service basis.

(c) The department may limit the types of program benefits available to enrollees in a program. For programs in which the department provides for more than one type of program benefit, the department may require that enrollees, either as a whole or on an individual basis based on certain circumstances, use certain types of program benefits in lieu of using other types of program benefits.

(d) The department shall, as necessary to maintain expenditures for a program within the available funding for that program, set monetary limitations on the total benefit amounts available on a periodic basis for an enrollee through that program, whether that benefit is in the form of premium assistance, premium purchase, or a set of covered services.

(11) The benefits for a section 1115 waiver eligibility group may be in the form of a defined set of covered services consisting of one or more of the mandatory and optional medicaid state plan services specified in 53-6-101 or other health-care related services. The department may select the types of services that constitute a defined set of covered services for a section 1115 waiver eligibility group. The department may provide coverage of a service not specified in 53-6-101 if the department determines the service to be appropriate for the particular section 1115 waiver eligibility group. The department may define the nature, components, scope, amount, and duration of each covered service to be made available to a section 1115 waiver eligibility group. The nature, components, scope, amount, and duration of a covered service made available to a section 1115 waiver eligibility group need not conform to those aspects of that service as defined by the department for delivery as a covered service to another section 1115 waiver eligibility group or to a medicaid eligibility group that is not encompassed within a section 1115 waiver.

(12) The department may adopt financial participation requirements for enrollees in a section 1115 eligibility group to foster appropriate use among enrollees and to maintain the fiscal accountability of the program. The department may adopt financial participation requirements, including but not limited to copayments, payment of monthly or yearly enrollment fees, or deductibles. The requirements may vary among the section 1115 waiver eligibility groups. In adopting financial participation requirements for enrollees selecting coverage as provided in subsection (10)(b)(iv), the department may not adopt cost-sharing amounts that exceed the nominal deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or similar charges adopted by the department to apply to categorically or medically needy persons for a service pursuant to the state medicaid plan.

(13) (a) The department shall adopt rules as necessary for the implementation of a section 1115 waiver. Rules may include but are not limited to:

(i) designation of programs and activities for implementation of a section 1115 waiver;
(ii) features and benefit coverage of the programs;
(iii) the nature, components, scope, amount, and duration of each program service;
(iv) appropriate insurance products and coverage as benefits;
(v) required enrollee eligibility information;
(vi) enrollee eligibility categories, criteria, requirements, and related measures;
(vii) limits upon enrollment;
(viii) requirements and limitations for service costs and expenditures;
(ix) measures to ensure the appropriateness and quality of services to be delivered;
(x) provider requirements and reimbursement;
(xi) financial participation requirements for enrollees;
(xii) use measures; and
(xiii) other appropriate provisions necessary for administration of a demonstration project and for implementation of the conditions placed upon approval of a section 1115 waiver by the U.S. department of health and human services.

(b) Unless required by federal law or regulation, the department may not adopt rules that exclude a child from medicaid services or require prior authorization for a child to access medicaid services if the child would be eligible for or able to access the services without prior authorization if the child was not in foster care.

(14) The department shall administer the programs and activities that are subject to a section 1115 waiver in accordance with the terms and conditions of approval by the U.S. department of health and human services. The department may modify aspects of established programs and activities administered by the department as may be necessary to implement a section 1115 waiver as provided in this section.

(15) The department may seek an initial duration and durational extensions for a section 1115 waiver as the department determines appropriate for demonstration and fiscal considerations.

(16) The department shall provide a report to the legislature, as provided in 5-11-210, on the conditions of approval and the status of implementation for each section 1115 waiver approved by the U.S. department of health and human services. For any proposed section 1115 waiver not approved by the U.S. department of health and human services, the department shall provide to the next legislative session a report on the basis for disapproval and an analysis of the fiscal costs and programmatic impacts of serving the persons within the proposed section 1115 waiver eligibility groups through eligibility under one of the optional medicaid eligibility categories established in federal law and authorized by 53-6-131.

(17) The department shall present a section 1115 waiver proposal to the appropriate medicaid advisory council, which must include consumer advocates, prior to the submission of the proposal to the federal government.

(18) The department shall present a section 1115 waiver proposal to the house appropriations committee or, during the interim, the children, families, health, and human services interim committee for review and comment at a public hearing prior to the submission of the proposal to the federal government for formal approval and shall also present the section 1115 waiver after final approval from the federal government.

(19) (a) The department shall provide for a public comment period on the proposed section 1115 waiver at least 60 days before the submission of the section 1115 waiver application to the federal government for formal approval.

(b) The department shall give notice of the proposal by announcing the pending submittal, stating its general purpose, and informing the public that information on the proposal is available on the department's website.

(c) The department shall provide for public comment through electronic means or mail and shall provide for a public forum in at least one location at which members of the public can submit views on the proposal. The department shall consider comments received and make any appropriate changes to the waiver request before submitting it to the federal government.

(d) The department shall post on its website the waiver concept paper, formal correspondence regarding a waiver proposal, and the final approved waiver, including documents received from the centers for medicare and medicaid services.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 350, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 63, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-2-216. Repealed. Sec. 54, Ch. 151, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 595, L. 2005.

53-2-217. Repealed. Sec. 54, Ch. 151, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 595, L. 2005.

Part 3
Local Offices of Public Assistance

Part Cross-References

County boarding homes for the aged, Title 7, ch. 34, part 23.

53-2-301. Local offices of public assistance to be established by department. The department shall establish one or more local offices of public assistance in each county of the state. If conditions warrant, two or more counties may be combined into one administrative unit and the department may use the same local office of public assistance and staff to administer public assistance in the combined counties.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 9, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-213; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 2013.

53-2-302. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Subd. (b), Sec. 9, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-214; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

53-2-303. Repealed. Sec. 137, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

History: En. Subd. (c), Sec. 9, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-215; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 409, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-304. Staff of public assistance program. The staff in each local office of public assistance must consist of at least one qualified staff worker. The department shall hire and supervise all public assistance staff.

History: En. Subd. (b), Sec. 10, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-217; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 410, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 59, L. 2013.

53-2-305. Local offices of public assistance under supervision of department. (1) Local offices of public assistance are offices of the department under the supervision of the department.

(2) The department shall ensure the participation of the tribal government in the development of a plan for any county that serves an Indian reservation.

History: En. Subd. (c), Sec. 10, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-218; amd. Sec. 411, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 59, L. 2013.

53-2-306. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 11, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-221; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 412, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-307. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 10, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-216(part); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 651, L. 1983.

53-2-308. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 71-111(part).

53-2-309. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2 and 4, pp. 457, 458, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 1, 2 and 4, p. 535, Cod. Stat. 1871 Sec. 9, p. 54, L. 1876; re-en. Sec. 963, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1617, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en Sec. 3208, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2058, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4529, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4529, R.C.M 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-113(part).

53-2-310. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2 and 4, pp. 457, 458, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 1, 2 and 4, p. 535, Cod. Stat. 1871 Sec. 9, p. 54, L. 1876; re-en. Sec. 963, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1617, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en Sec. 3208, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2058, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4529, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4529, R.C.M 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-113(part).

53-2-311 through 53-2-320 reserved.

53-2-321. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4465.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1941 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-106; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, Sp. L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 625, L. 1983.

53-2-322. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Subd. (b), Sec. 11, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 117 L. 1941; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 23 Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-222; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 625, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14 Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 206, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd Sec. 13, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 443, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 413, Ch. 546 L. 1995; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

53-2-323. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 9, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 117, L. 1941 amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 168 L. 1977; Sec. 71-311, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. 16-1043 by Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 1975; Sec. 16-1043, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M 1947, 16-1043(1)(c), 71-311; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 400, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 609 L. 1987.

Part 4
Liability of Applicant's Relatives
(Repealed)

53-2-401. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-233.

53-2-402. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-234.

53-2-403. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-235(1), (3), (4), (5).

53-2-404. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-236.

53-2-405. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-237.

53-2-406. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 180, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 71-238.

53-2-407. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-239.

53-2-408. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 180, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-240.

Part 5
Investigations by Department of Justice

Part Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

53-2-501. Investigations and enforcement actions by department of justice. (1) When requested by the department of public health and human services, the department of justice shall:

(a) investigate matters relating to public assistance and vendor payments, including but not limited to the claim for an acceptance of public assistance benefits by public assistance recipients and the receipt and disbursal of public assistance funds by state, county, or other governmental agencies;

(b) institute civil or criminal actions in the appropriate courts to enforce the public assistance laws and violations thereof.

(2) For purposes of the enforcement of and investigations relating to laws governing public assistance and vendor payments, the department of justice is a criminal justice agency, as defined in 44-5-103, and employees designated by the department have peace officer status with the powers of search, seizure, and arrest.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-233.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 414, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 414, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

State debt collection service, Title 17, ch. 4.
State administrative collection of child support — dependent children, Title 40, ch. 5, part 2.
Deduction from wages for owed child support, Title 40, ch. 5, part 3.

53-2-502. Cooperation of governmental agencies with department of justice. All state departments and agencies and county or other governmental agencies shall cooperate with the department of justice and its employees to effectuate the purpose of this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 295, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-233.2; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 414, L. 1993.

53-2-503. Information made available to department of justice. (1) The department of public health and human services and its local units shall make available to the department of justice information contained in the public assistance files pertinent to the investigations and judicial actions described in 53-2-501.

(2) Every other state, county, or other governmental agency shall make available to the agents or attorneys of the department of justice all records, files, memoranda, forms, or other papers relating to public assistance matters, including income tax returns filed with the department of revenue.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 295, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-233.3; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 414, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 415, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-504. Unauthorized disclosure of information obtained in department of justice investigations a criminal act. (1) No information obtained by the department of justice or its agents and attorneys as a result of an investigation may be disclosed except in accordance with the laws applicable to the source of information. However, the information may be used or disclosed under 40-5-261 and rules adopted under 40-5-262 or as necessary in any court action.

(2) Each employee violating the disclosure provisions is subject to the criminal charge and penalties applicable to the source of information.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 295, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-233.4; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 543, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 418, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 414, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right to privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

53-2-505. Rulemaking authority of department of justice. The department of justice may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 414, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 6
Grants of Assistance and Liability Therefor — Appeals

53-2-601. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M 1947, 71-242(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

53-2-602. Grants based on need. The department shall determine grants and changes in grants, based on the needs of each applicant, after an eligibility determination is made in accordance with the rules and standards of assistance prescribed by the department.

History: En. Subd. (d), Sec. 10, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 98 L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-219; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 416, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch 571, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-2-603. Award of public assistance after eligibility determination. Upon completion of an application, the department, through the appropriate local office of public assistance, shall determine whether the applicant is eligible for public assistance under the provisions of this title, the type and amount of public assistance the applicant must receive, and the date upon which the public assistance must begin. This subsection does not apply to any form of public assistance managed by a managed care contractor, as provided in 53-6-116, when a determination of eligibility is made by the managed care contractor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M 1947, 71-242(part); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-2-604. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 16, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-227.

53-2-605. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 10, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 212 L. 1965; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-216(part).

53-2-606. Right of appeal. (1) If an application for assistance for food stamps, cash assistance or nonfinancial assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, or medicaid is not acted upon promptly or if a decision is made by which the applicant or recipient is aggrieved, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the board of public assistance for a fair hearing by addressing a request for a hearing to the department. The board of public assistance shall, upon receipt of a request for a hearing, give the applicant or recipient prompt notice and opportunity for a fair hearing.

(2) The department may upon its own motion review any decision of a local office of public assistance and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made within a reasonable time from the filing of the decision. The department may have an additional eligibility determination made and shall determine whether and in what amount assistance is to be granted under the provisions of this title.

(3) If the department reviews a decision on its own motion, applicants or recipients affected by the decisions of the department must upon request be given reasonable notice and an opportunity for a fair hearing by the board of public assistance.

History: En. Sec. 12, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1953 amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-223; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 417, Ch. 546, L 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8 Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Appeal of decision to terminate medicaid home and community-based services waiver, 53-6-407.

53-2-607. Assistance not assignable or subject to legal process — exceptions. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, assistance granted to a needy person under this title is not transferable or assignable at law or in equity and none of the money paid or payable under this title is subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.

(2) Money paid or payable under this title to a person or entity who is not a needy person but who receives the money for providing goods or services to a needy person is subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process.

History: En. Sec. 18, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-229; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 510, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Property exempt from execution, Title 25, ch. 13, part 6.

Exempt property — bankruptcy proceedings, 31-2-106.

53-2-608. Method of issuing assistance grants. (1) When an individual or household is determined to be eligible for public assistance under this title, the department shall make payments to the individual or household or to a vendor on behalf of the individual or household in the full amount approved. Payment may be made by check or by electronic transfer, which includes but is not limited to direct deposits to an account at a financial institution and electronic benefit transfer cards. All public assistance checks represent cash on demand at full par value to the recipient and vendor.

(2) Whenever the department, acting pursuant to standards established by the department, determines that any otherwise eligible recipient of public assistance has, by reason of any physical or mental condition, an inability to manage funds and that making payments to the recipient would be contrary to the recipient's welfare, the department may, under standards established under the state plan, make the public assistance payment on behalf of the recipient to another person found by the department to be interested in or concerned with the welfare of the recipient.

History: En. Sec. 19, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-230(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 418, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-2-609. Revocation of assistance. If the department or the local office of public assistance has reason to believe, by reason of a complaint or otherwise, that public assistance under this title has been improperly granted, the department or local office of public assistance shall make an investigation. If it appears as a result of an investigation that the assistance was improperly granted, further payments may not be authorized for the recipient. The right of appeal is granted to recipients whose assistance has been revoked.

History: En. Sec. 17, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-228; amd. Sec. 419, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-2-610. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 571, L. 2001; Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: (1)En. Sec. 19, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-230, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Subd. (h), Sec. 7, Part 1, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 261, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-211, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 71-302.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-302.2, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-211(part), 71-230(3), 71-302.2(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 420, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-2-611. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 228, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 299, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-247, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 228, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-250, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-247, 71-250; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 482, L. 1989.

53-2-612. Lien of department upon third-party recoveries. (1) Upon notice by the department or the recipient to a third party or the third party's insurer as provided in subsection (5)(b), the department has a lien upon money paid by a third party or the third party's insurer in satisfaction of a judgment or settlement arising from a recipient's claim for damages or compensation for personal injury, disease, illness, or disability to the extent that the department has paid medical assistance on behalf of the recipient for the same personal injury, disease, illness, or disability and to the extent that the money represents payment for medical expenses.

(2) The department may, in the name of the recipient on whose behalf medical assistance has been paid by the department, commence and prosecute to final conclusion any action that may be necessary to recover from a third party or the third party's insurer compensation or damages for medical assistance paid by the department on behalf of the recipient. This section does not affect the right of the recipient to initiate and prosecute to final conclusion an action for damages or compensation in the recipient's own name in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) (a) The lien is subordinate to the lien of an attorney under 37-61-420.

(b) Unless specifically provided by law, the recipient's right to recover damages or compensation from a third party or a third party's insurer may not be reduced or denied on the ground that the recipient's costs of medical treatment and medical-related services have been paid by the department under any public assistance program.

(c) From the amount collected by the department or recipient from legal proceedings or as a result of settlement, reasonable attorney fees and costs must be first deducted and paid. Unless the department and the recipient agree to a different settlement, the amount previously paid as medical assistance by the department, less a pro rata share of attorney fees and costs, must be deducted next and paid to the department, but only to the extent that the amount paid as medical assistance does not exceed the portion of the amount collected that represents payment of medical expenses. The remainder, if any, must be paid to the recipient.

(d) In all cases of payment to the department out of an amount collected from a third party or insurer on a recipient's claim, the amount of the lien must be reduced by a pro rata share of attorney fees and costs as provided in subsection (3)(c), but the department may not be required to participate in payment of attorney fees and costs unless the recipient's claim results in recovery out of which the department receives full or partial payment of its lien.

(e) (i) Except as provided in subsections (3)(e)(ii) and (3)(e)(iii), the department may not impose a lien under this section upon a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1, or upon the assets of a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1.

(ii) The department may impose a lien under this section upon a self-sufficiency trust or upon the assets of a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1, if the department is required by federal law to recover or collect from the trust or its assets as a condition of receiving federal financial participation for the medicaid program.

(iii) To the extent otherwise permitted by this section, the department is not precluded from asserting a claim or imposing a lien upon real or personal property prior to transfer of the property to the trust. If the department imposes a lien upon property prior to transfer to a self-sufficiency trust, any transfer of the property to the trust is subject to the lien.

(4) (a) A recipient of medical assistance or the recipient's legal representative shall notify the department by certified letter within 30 days if the recipient or the recipient's legal representative asserts a claim against a third party or a third party's insurer for damages or compensation for a personal injury, disease, illness, or disability for which the department paid medical assistance in whole or in part or for which the recipient has applied for medical assistance. The notice must be mailed to the director of the department. At the same time, a copy must be sent by certified mail to the third party or the third party's insurer.

(b) The notice must contain the following information:

(i) the name and address of the recipient and the recipient's legal representative, if any;

(ii) the name and address of the third party alleged to be liable to the recipient;

(iii) the name and address of any known insurer of the third party; and

(iv) the judicial district and docket number of any action filed.

(c) A recipient or the recipient's legal representative who has received actual notice that the department has paid medical assistance is liable to the department for the amount it is entitled to receive under this section if:

(i) the recipient or the recipient's legal representative fails to timely notify the department or fails to mail a copy of the notice to the third party or the third party's insurer; and

(ii) a third party or the third party's insurer that did not receive notice from the department as provided for in subsection (5)(b) pays the recipient or the recipient's legal representative without satisfying any lien of the department.

(5) (a) If a third party or the third party's insurer that has received notice of the department's lien as provided for in subsection (5)(b) makes payment in whole or in part of the recipient's claim without first satisfying the lien of the department, the third party or the third party's insurer is liable to the department for the amount the department is entitled to receive under this section.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (5)(a), a third party or the third party's insurer has been given notice if:

(i) the department mails, by certified mail, to the third party or the third party's insurer:

(A) a statement of the medical assistance paid or that may be paid by the department on behalf of the recipient; and

(B) a claim for reimbursement;

(ii) the recipient or the recipient's legal representative mails, by certified mail, to the third party or the third party's insurer:

(A) a copy of the notice required by subsection (4)(a); or

(B) a statement stating that the recipient has applied for or has received medical assistance from the department in connection with the same claim; or

(iii) the recipient or the recipient's legal representative has commenced an action against the third party or the third party's insurer for damages or compensation for personal injury, disease, illness, or disability for which the department has paid or may pay medical assistance, in whole or in part, and the department files in the court in which the action is pending a notice of lien stating that a lien is claimed for medical assistance on any money paid in satisfaction of any judgment in or settlement of the action and that:

(A) medical assistance in a stated amount has been paid by the department on behalf of the recipient; or

(B) medical assistance may be paid on behalf of the recipient.

(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Legal representative" means an attorney having or exercising authority on behalf of a recipient with respect to a claim or action to recover damages or compensation from a third party or a third party's insurer.

(b) "Recipient" means a person on whose behalf the department has paid or may pay medical assistance for the cost of medical treatment and medical-related services for personal injury, disease, illness, or disability. If the context allows, the term includes a recipient's legal representative.

(c) "Third party" means an individual, institution, corporation, or public or private agency that is or may be liable to pay all or part of the cost of medical treatment and medical-related services for personal injury, disease, illness, or disability of a recipient of medical assistance from the department and includes but is not limited to insurers, health service organizations, and parties liable or who may be liable in tort.

History: En. 71-241.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-241.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 262, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

53-2-613. Application for assistance — assignment of support rights. (1) Applications for public assistance, including but not limited to cash assistance or nonfinancial assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, and medical assistance, may be made in any local office of public assistance. The application must be submitted in the manner and form prescribed by the department and must contain information required by the department.

(2) A person who signs an application for cash assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, or for related medical assistance assigns to the state, to the department, and to the county, if county funds were used to pay for services, all rights that the applicant may have to monetary and

medical support from any other person in the applicant's own behalf or in behalf of any other family member for whom application is made. A person who signs an application for public assistance other than cash assistance, as defined in 53-2-902, or for related medical assistance may, in accordance with rules adopted by the department, be required to assign to the state, to the department, and to the county all rights that the applicant may have to monetary and medical support from any other person in the applicant's own behalf or on behalf of any other family member for whom application is made.

(3) The assignment:

(a) is effective for current support and medical obligations;

(b) takes effect upon a determination that the applicant is eligible for public assistance; and

(c) remains in effect with respect to the amount of any unpaid support and medical obligation accrued under the assignment that was owed prior to the termination of public assistance to a recipient.

(4) If a person who is the legal custodian and child support obligee under a support order relinquishes physical custody of a child to a caretaker relative without obtaining a modification of legal custody and the caretaker relative is determined eligible for public assistance on behalf of the child, the child support obligation is transferred by operation of law to the caretaker relative and may be assigned as provided in subsection (2). The transfer and assignment terminate when the caretaker relative no longer has physical custody of the child, except for any unpaid support still owing under the assignment at that time.

(5) Whenever a child support or spousal support obligation is assigned to the department pursuant to this section, the following provisions apply:

(a) If the support obligation is based upon a judgment or decree or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, the department may retain assigned support amounts in an amount sufficient to reimburse the cumulative total of public assistance money expended.

(b) A recipient or former recipient of public assistance may not commence or maintain an action to recover or enforce a delinquent support obligation or make any agreements with any other person or agency concerning the support obligation, except as provided in 40-5-202.

(c) If a notice of assigned interest is filed with the district court, the clerk of the court may not pay or release for the benefit of any recipient or former recipient of public assistance any amounts received pursuant to a judgment or decree or an order of the court until the department's child support enforcement division has filed a written notice that:

(i) the assignment of current support amounts has been terminated; and

(ii) all assigned support delinquencies, if any, are satisfied or released.

(d) A recipient or former recipient of public assistance may not take action to modify or make any agreement to modify, settle, or release any past, present, or future support obligation unless the department's child support enforcement division is given written notice under the provisions of 40-5-202. Any modifications or agreements entered into without the participation of the department are void with respect to the state, the department, and the local office of public assistance.

(e) A support obligation assigned under this section may not be terminated, invalidated, waived, set aside, or considered uncollectible by the conduct, misconduct, or failure of a recipient or former recipient of public assistance to take any action or to cease any action required under a decree, judgment, support order, custody order, visitation order, restraining order, or other similar order.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 702, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 631, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 60, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 421, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 552, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1999; amd. Secs. 12, 42, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 45, 46, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 184, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
State debt collection service, Title 17, ch. 4.
State administrative collection of child support — dependent children, Title 40, ch. 5, part 2.
Deduction from wages for owed child support, Title 40, ch. 5, part 3.
Department of Public Health and Human Services to monitor and enforce child support payments, 40-5-412.
Investigations by Department of Justice, Title 53, ch. 2, part 5.

Part 7
Work Experience and Training Program (Repealed)

53-2-701. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-702. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-703. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-704. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-705. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-706. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 390, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 1985.

53-2-707. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-708. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

53-2-709. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 550, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 390, L. 1981.

Part 8
State Assumption of County Public Assistance Programs (Renumbered and Repealed)

53-2-801. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 422, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-802. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 520, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 423, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-803. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 424, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-804. Renumbered 53-3-116. Sec. 314(3), Ch. 42, L. 1997.

53-2-805 through 53-2-810 reserved.

53-2-811. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 425, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-812. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 426, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-2-813. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 571, L. 2001; Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 427, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

53-2-814 through 53-2-820 reserved.

53-2-821. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

53-2-822. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 1989.

Part 9
Food Stamp Program

53-2-901. Administration of food stamp program — rulemaking authority. (1) The department is authorized to administer the food stamp program in compliance with all federal laws and requirements.

(2) The department shall adopt rules that are necessary and desirable for the administration of the food stamp program.

(3) The department shall adopt rules that may include but are not limited to rules concerning:

(a) eligibility for assistance, including income and resource limitations, income and resource exclusions, and transfers of resources;

(b) amounts of assistance and methods for determining benefit amount;

(c) periodic redetermination of eligibility;

(d) reporting requirements;

(e) work registration, employment, and training requirements and exemptions from those requirements;

(f) procedures and policies of the employment and training program;

(g) disqualification because of intentional program violations, for voluntarily quitting a job without good cause, or for any other violation of program rules; and

(h) penalties applicable to recipients of cash assistance who have been sanctioned because of failure to meet any requirement of that program.

(4) The department may adopt rules that include but are not limited to rules concerning:

(a) requirements for recipients to assign the right of support;

(b) requirements for recipients to cooperate with the state agency administering the child support enforcement program established under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 651, et seq.; and

(c) disqualification for failure to perform actions required by other means-tested programs, for failure to cooperate with the state agency administering the child support enforcement program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 651, et seq., or for failure to pay court-ordered child support as provided in sections 819, 822, and 823 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 7 U.S.C. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-2-902. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Cash assistance" means the programs designed to provide families with monthly cash grants and opportunities leading to self-support and funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(a).

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Food stamp program" means the provision of food stamp benefits that can be used to purchase food to low-income persons pursuant to the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980, 7 U.S.C. 2011, et seq.

(4) "Nonfinancial assistance" means the programs funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families, as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(b).

(5) "Temporary assistance for needy families" means the block grant established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-2-903. Employment and training program. The department shall establish and administer an employment and training program for food stamp recipients that is in compliance with federal requirements.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-2-904. Income and resource exclusions — FAIM participants. In accordance with waivers of federal law that are granted by the food and consumer service of the U.S. department of agriculture, the department may by rule establish special income and resource exclusions to be applied to participants of the FAIM project in determining their eligibility for food stamps and in determining the benefit amount.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 465, L. 2001.

Part 10 reserved

Part 11
Coordination of Job Training and Employment Programs (Repealed)

53-2-1101. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 694, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

53-2-1102. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 694, L. 1989.

53-2-1103. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 694, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-2-1104. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 694, L. 1989.

53-2-1105. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 694, L. 1989.

53-2-1106. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 694, L. 1989.

53-2-1107. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 694, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

53-2-1108. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 694, L. 1989.

53-2-1109. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 694, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-2-1110. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 694, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1995.

Part 12
Administration of Workforce Development, Educational, and Human Resource Programs

53-2-1201. Legislative findings and intent. (1) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) many Montanans need access to information and high quality services in order to manage their careers; and

(b) Montana businesses need skilled workers.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to establish and continually improve a workforce development system that:

(a) streamlines services through better integration in a one-stop delivery system;

(b) empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their careers and career preparation;

(c) provides for universal access;

(d) calls for increased accountability through a series of performance indicators and consumer reports;

(e) focuses on promoting personal responsibility; and

(f) efficiently provides services to guarantee maximum impacts.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 424, L. 2001.

53-2-1202. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Act" means the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128, 29 U.S.C. 3101, et seq.

(2) "Board" means the Montana state workforce innovation board provided for in 53-2-1203.

(3) "One-stop center" means one or more entities designated or certified under section 121(d) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3151(d).

(4) "One-stop delivery system" means a system under which entities responsible for administering separate workforce investment, educational, and other human resource programs and funding sources collaborate to create a seamless system of service delivery to enhance access to the programs' services and improve long-term employment outcomes for individuals receiving assistance.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

53-2-1203. Montana state workforce innovation board — membership — duties. (1) There is a Montana state workforce innovation board.

(2) The board:

(a) must consist of individuals who fulfill the membership roles and selection criteria required by section 101(b)(1) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3111(b)(1); and

(b) may include individuals who fulfill the membership roles and selection criteria permitted by section 101(b)(1) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3111(b)(1).

(3) The governor shall consider the special needs of Montana's hard-to-serve Indian population and the state's relationship with tribal governments when making appointments to the board.

(4) The board shall perform the functions described in section 101(d) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3111(d), and assist the department of commerce in coordinating with local businesses in activities related to trade promotion and marketing.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 424, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 190, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 2019.

53-2-1204. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 424, L. 2001.

53-2-1205. Workforce development program. (1) There is a workforce development program to implement the provisions of Title I-B of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3101, et seq., to operate the one-stop delivery system to adults, dislocated workers, and youth.

(2) The one-stop delivery system must be administered in accordance with a 4-year combined state plan that meets the requirements of section 103 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3113. The combined state plan must be created with the assistance of the board.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 424, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

53-2-1206. Performance indicators. The 4-year combined state plan must contain performance indicators to measure the effectiveness and operation of the programs identified in Title I-B of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3101, et seq. The combined state plan must contain the expectation of continuous improvement, as negotiated with the secretary of the U.S. department of labor, and conform to the requirements of section 103 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3113.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 424, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

53-2-1207. Coordination of services. The board shall assist the governor in developing and continuously improving the statewide system of activities that are provided within the state workforce development systems by developing linkages in order to ensure coordination among the programs described in section 121(b) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 3151(b).

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 424, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 37, L. 2017.

53-2-1208 through 53-2-1214 reserved.

53-2-1215. Incumbent worker training program — purpose. There is an incumbent worker training program, administered by the department, the purpose of which is to:

(1) meet the training needs of incumbent workers in businesses employing workers in this state; and

(2) assist local businesses in preserving existing jobs for Montana residents.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-2-1216. Definitions. As used in 53-2-1215 through 53-2-1220, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(2) "Eligible training provider" means:

(a) a unit of the university system, as defined in 20-25-201;

(b) a community college district, as defined in 20-15-101;

(c) an accredited, tribally controlled community college located in the state of Montana;

(d) an apprenticeship program that is in compliance with Title 39, chapter 6; or

(e) an entity approved to provide workforce training that is approved by the department.

(3) "Employer" means a business entity that employs workers in this state and that is registered with the secretary of state to conduct business as a sole proprietor, if required, or as a corporation, a partnership, a limited liability company, or an association.

(4) "Incumbent worker" means a worker who has completed at least 6 months of employment with the employer.

(5) "Incumbent worker training program grant" or "grant" means the grant awarded to employers to hire eligible training providers to provide incumbent workers with education and training required to improve productivity, efficiency, or wages in existing jobs.

(6) "Worker" means an individual currently employed in a predominantly year-round job and working an average of at least 20 hours a week.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-2-1217. Incumbent worker training program criteria for applicants. (1) An employer applying for an incumbent worker training program grant must:

(a) have been in business in this state for a minimum of 1 year; and

(b) have a need for training incumbent workers.

(2) An employer may apply for an incumbent worker training program grant. The employer shall agree to the following conditions as a condition of receiving the grant:

(a) The employer shall purchase, through an eligible training provider, certified education or skills-based training for incumbent workers in existing jobs.

(b) (i) The employer shall contribute to the cost of the training. Except for out-of-state travel and lodging expenses as provided in subsection (2)(b)(iii), the employer may make in-kind contributions by paying wages to the worker who is being trained, pursuant to rule, when the worker is undergoing training and when engaged in necessary travel related to that training.

(ii) The employer shall pay at least 20% of the cost of the training purchased by the employer.

(iii) The employer shall pay at least 20% of approved transportation costs and lodging expenses incurred when the training is provided within Montana. The employer shall pay at least 50% of the approved transportation costs and lodging expenses incurred when the training is provided outside of Montana.

(c) The employer shall provide evidence to the department that training was completed.

(3) An incumbent worker training program grant application must contain at a minimum:

(a) information that provides an adequate understanding of the applicant's business and the training objective;

(b) a description of the eligible training provider's proposed curriculum, resources, methods, and duration of training;

(c) a list of incumbent workers to be trained and their current job descriptions and base wage rates plus the expected wage rates after training; and

(d) any other information required by rule by the department that is similar to information required for other employment-related grants.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 25, L. 2017.**

53-2-1218. Incumbent worker training program grant award criteria. (1) Subject to appropriation by the legislature, the department shall award grants as provided in this section. The distribution of funding must be reviewed annually by the department, and funds that are not being used or for which there are no qualified applications, as determined by the department, must be distributed as provided pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) (a) The department shall award grants evenly to three categories of employers as follows:

(i) one-third to employers with 20 workers or fewer;

(ii) one-third to employers with 21 to 50 workers; and

(iii) one-third to employers with more than 50 workers.

(b) Every calendar quarter, if one category of employer does not have enough qualified applications, then the department shall distribute the remaining unused funds to the other two eligible categories of employers. Any remaining unused funds after this distribution must remain with the department for future distributions in accordance with this section.

(3) The following criteria must be used in determining whether to award an incumbent worker training program grant:

(a) prospects for enhancing the incumbent worker's productivity, efficiency, or wages;

(b) prospects for reducing incumbent worker turnover;

(c) ability to provide matching funds;

(d) a demonstrated need by the employer for upgrading skills of incumbent workers through training as a way to improve the employer's ability to remain competitive in the industry or in the economy;

(e) a direct relationship between the training and an added benefit to the incumbent worker's occupation or craft; and

(f) a demonstration that the training is not normally provided or required by the employer and, as far as may be determined, by the employer's competitors.

(4) An incumbent worker training program grant award may not exceed $2,500 annually for each incumbent worker who is being trained.

(5) Subject to funding, the department may:

(a) limit the number of applicants that receive grant awards; or

(b) award less than the amount provided in subsection (4).

(6) The recipient of a grant shall provide the department with:

(a) a properly executed agreement, signed by the employer's authorized representative, that outlines terms of the grant;

(b) documentation upon completion of training that the training was purchased and to whom the training was provided, including copies of certificates or statements of completion; and

(c) all receipts or copies of receipts associated with the training and the application.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 25, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-2-1219. Special revenue account. There is a state special revenue account to the credit of the department for use in the incumbent worker training program that may be spent subject to appropriation by the legislature. Money must be deposited in the account from funds that are available for incumbent worker training.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 2017.

53-2-1220. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to further define information for applications, distribution of grants, and the use of the special revenue account provided for in 53-2-1219.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 325, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3
GENERAL RELIEF

Part 1 — General Provisions

53-3-101. Repealed.
53-3-102. Repealed.
53-3-103. Renumbered 53-3-315.
53-3-104. Repealed.
53-3-105. Repealed.
53-3-106. Repealed.
53-3-107. Repealed.
53-3-108. Repealed.
53-3-109. Repealed.
53-3-110. Repealed.
53-3-111. Confidentiality.
53-3-112. Repealed.
53-3-113. Repealed.
53-3-114. Repealed.
53-3-115. Legislative findings.
53-3-116. Indigent assistance — optional county program.
53-3-117 through 53-3-120 reserved.
53-3-121. Repealed.
53-3-122. Repealed.

Part 2 — Eligibility and Application for General Relief (Repealed)

Part 3 — Conditions and Form of Assistance Liability for Assistance (Repealed and Terminated)

Part 1
General Provisions

53-3-101. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: (1), (3)En. 71-201.1 by Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-201.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 71-302.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-302, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-201.1, 71-302.2(5).

53-3-102. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-301; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1979.

53-3-103. Renumbered 53-3-315. Code Commissioner, 1985.

53-3-104. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 117, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 212, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 71-309.

53-3-105. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 6, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 117, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-308(3).

53-3-106. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 3, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-305.

53-3-107. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 4, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-306.

53-3-108. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 580, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 451, L. 1989.

53-3-109. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 10, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 578, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-110. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 435, L. 1993.

53-3-111. Confidentiality. (1) Except as provided in 53-2-211, personal information provided to or obtained by the department for the purposes of this chapter is confidential.

(2) Except as provided in 53-2-211 or as authorized by law, disclosure of confidential information concerning applicants for indigent assistance is restricted to purposes directly connected with the administration of programs administered by a local office of public assistance except as otherwise provided in this section.

(3) Confidential information may be released upon written consent of the applicant.

(4) Confidential information concerning an applicant may be released without prior consent if an emergency situation necessitates the release. The applicant must be informed of the release as soon as practicable.

(5) Confidential information may be released without notice or consent for the purpose of fraud investigation, collection of child support, the purposes of 53-2-211, and third-party medical recovery.

(6) Confidential information may be released if directed by a court order.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 410, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont Const.

53-3-112. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

53-3-113. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 451, L. 1989.

53-3-114. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 435, L. 1993.

53-3-115. Legislative findings. (1) The legislature finds that in order to use the limited resources of the state for the purposes of providing public assistance to persons whom it has determined are in need, certain programs must be eliminated and the provision of public assistance programs must be reorganized for more efficient delivery of services.

(2) The legislature finds that county governments are in the best position to efficiently and effectively deliver services for those in need who are not otherwise eligible for similar services provided by the department of public health and human services.

(3) (a) The legislature finds that the needs of persons who are aged, infirm, or misfortunate are adequately and appropriately provided for through the following programs:

(i) medicaid;
(ii) cash assistance, as defined in 53-2-902;
(iii) food stamps;
(iv) commodities; and
(v) low-income energy assistance.

(b) The legislature further finds that the counties may in their discretion provide other programs of public assistance that they determine are appropriate and that may be funded with money derived from a county mill levy.

(4) The legislature finds that the effects of eliminating the state program of general relief are not known and that the administration and financing of public assistance programs by each county may not provide uniform assistance throughout the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 428, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — general provisions, Title 53, ch. 4, part 2.
Medicaid, Title 53, ch. 6., part 1.
Home weatherization, Title 90, ch. 4, part 2.

53-3-116. Indigent assistance — optional county program. (1) A county may provide a program of indigent assistance that it determines necessary. The program may include assistance for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical assistance for individuals not eligible for state or federal programs providing similar assistance. A county may provide for the burial, entombment, or cremation of indigents. The indigent assistance program of the county includes:

(a) job search, job training, work-for-assistance, and employment programs; and
(b) health care, preventive care, and wellness programs as determined by the county commissioners.

(2) A county may establish the criteria for determining eligibility for assistance, including but not limited to residency requirements, limits on income and resources, and the amount, scope, and duration of assistance.

(3) A county may deny assistance for a reasonable period if a person has voluntarily left employment without good cause or is discharged due to misconduct.

(4) The program may be funded with money derived from a county mill levy as authorized by law.

(5) A person is indigent for purposes of this subsection if the value of all income and resources available to pay for that person's burial, entombment, or cremation at the time of death is less than the negotiated amount due the funeral home or mortician for an indigent burial. Available income and resources may be determined by the county.

(6) A county may not deduct amounts that may be recovered from resources of a deceased indigent from a contract amount due a funeral home or mortician for burial services provided under 7-4-2915 or this section. A funeral home or a mortician that recovers an amount in excess of a contract amount paid under this subsection shall reimburse the county for the amount recovered up to the amount of the contract.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 561, L. 1993; Sec. 53-2-804, MCA 1995; redes. 53-3-116 by Sec. 314(3), Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 2021.

53-3-117 through 53-3-120 reserved.

53-3-121. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-122. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

Part 2
Eligibility and Application for General Relief (Repealed)

53-3-201. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. 71-302.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-302.2(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-202. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.
History: En. Sec. 10, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-312.

53-3-203. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.
History: En. Sec. 11, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-313.

53-3-204. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.
History: En. Subd. (b), Sec. 2, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-303.

53-3-205. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 10, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 585, L. 1989; amd. Secs. 1, 5, Ch. 603, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

53-3-206. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 10, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 585, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 603, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 1991.

53-3-207. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1985; (2)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 1987.

53-3-208. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

53-3-209. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 10, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-210. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 1987.

53-3-211. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-212. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 563, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-213 and 53-3-214 reserved.

53-3-215. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

Part 3
Conditions and Form of Assistance Liability for Assistance
(Repealed and Terminated)

53-3-301. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 12, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-314; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 651, L. 1983.

53-3-302. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 5, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-307(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, Sp. L. 1981.

53-3-303. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-307(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 579, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-304. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-307(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 651, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, Sp. L. March 1986; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 613, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-305. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-307(3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 10, Sp. L. March 1986; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 579, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-306. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. 71-302.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-302.2(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 1979.

53-3-307. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. 71-302.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-302.2(part); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-308. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

53-3-309. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 451, L. 1989.

53-3-310. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 442, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

53-3-311. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 451, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 585, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 603, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.

53-3-312. Terminated. Sec. 30, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 670, L. 1985.

53-3-313. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 670, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 580, L. 1989.**

53-3-314. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 670, L. 1985.**

53-3-315. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 482, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Part 2, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 117, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 212, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-308(1), (2), (4), (5); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 707, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 670, L. 1985; Sec. 53-3-103, MCA 1983; redes. 53-3-315 by Code Commissioner, 1985.**

53-3-316 and 53-3-317 reserved.

53-3-318. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 442, L. 1991.**

53-3-319 and 53-3-320 reserved.

53-3-321. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 580, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-322. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-323. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-324. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-325. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-326. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-327. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 701, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

53-3-328. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 561, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 578, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 7, Sp. L. July 1992.**

CHAPTER 4
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Chapter Cross-References
Minors, Title 41.

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53-4-101. Renumbered 52-2-101. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-102. Renumbered 52-2-102. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-103 through 53-4-110 reserved.

53-4-111. Renumbered 52-2-111. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-112. Renumbered 52-2-112. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-113. Renumbered 52-2-113. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-114. Renumbered 52-2-114. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-115. Renumbered 52-2-115. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-116. Renumbered 52-2-116. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-117. Renumbered 52-2-117. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-118. Renumbered 52-2-118. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-119 and 53-4-120 reserved.

53-4-121. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-714(part).**

53-4-122. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Part 6, Ch. 82, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 71-714(part).**

Part 2
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — General Provisions

Part Cross-References
Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Medical assistance — Medicaid, Title 53, ch. 6, part 1.

53-4-201. Definitions. As used in part 6 and this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Approved educational program" means:

(a) a program in a unit of the Montana university system, as provided in 20-25-201, a community college, a tribal college, or any other accredited college in Montana in which an individual is enrolled in pursuit of an associate's or baccalaureate degree; or

(b) an accredited high school or training program approved by the department by rule.

(2) "Assessment" means the process of evaluating a recipient's skills, education, job readiness, and barriers to employment. The term may include further in-depth examination to identify and access services and resources to assist the recipient in eliminating barriers to employment if barriers are identified during the initial assessment.

(3) "Cash assistance" means the programs designed to provide families with monthly cash grants and opportunities leading to self-support and funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(a).

(4) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(5) (a) "Dependent child", for public assistance purposes, means:

(i) a child under 18 years of age; or

(ii) a person under 19 years of age who is a student, as defined by the department by rule.

(b) The person described in subsection (5)(a)(i) or (5)(a)(ii) must be living with a specified caretaker relative, as defined by the department by rule.

(6) "Family" means a group of people who live with a dependent child, each of whom is related to the dependent child by blood, marriage, or adoption or by law, such as:

(a) a parent, including a natural or adoptive parent, a stepparent, or a person considered by law to be a parent in the case of a child conceived by artificial insemination; or

(b) a sibling.

(7) "Federal poverty level" means the measure of indigence established annually by the U.S. office of management and budget.

(8) "Individual responsibility plan" means a plan developed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 608(b) that outlines the employment goals and service needs of a person receiving cash assistance or nonfinancial assistance and required to participate in employment and training activities.

(9) "Nonfinancial assistance" means the programs funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families, as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(b).

(10) "Public assistance" or "assistance" means a type of monetary or other assistance furnished under this title to a person by a state or county agency, regardless of the original source of the assistance.

(11) "Specified caretaker relative" means a person within a degree of kinship to the dependent child, as specified by department rule, who lives with the child and exercises care and control over the child.

(12) "State plan" means the policies and procedures governing the programs funded by temporary assistance for needy families as prepared by the department and certified by the federal agency that provides funding for the programs.

(13) "Temporary assistance for needy families" means the federal block grant established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.

History: (1)En. Subd. (a), Sec. 1, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-501, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Subd. (b), Sec. 1, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1971; Sec. 71-502, R.C.M. 1947; (3), (4)En. 71-201.1 by Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-201.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-201.1, 71-501(1), 71-502; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, Sp. L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 429, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Youth — declaration of policy, 41-3-101.

53-4-202. Cash assistance to be in effect in all counties. (1) It is required that the state plan and programs described in the state plan must be in effect in each county of the state.

(2) It is not required that the programs funded under temporary assistance for needy families be uniformly administered in each county of the state, provided that the programs are administered in accordance with all requirements of the state plan and federal law. The department may also administer demonstration programs pursuant to section 1115 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315, or any other provision of that act that permits the states to administer experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects.

(3) An enrolled member of an Indian tribe participating in a program that is funded, at least in part, by temporary assistance for needy families must be subject to the same rules, policies, and requirements as all other applicants for and recipients of benefits funded by temporary assistance for needy families unless an exception is expressly granted by federal law.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(c); amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 41, L. 2019.**

53-4-203. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 703, L. 1989.**

53-4-204 through 53-4-208 reserved.

53-4-209. Montana parents as scholars program — department duties. (1) There is a Montana parents as scholars program administered by the department.

(2) The department shall:

(a) use state maintenance of effort funds or temporary assistance for needy families funds in a program to provide assistance to eligible households for the purpose of continuation of education leading toward a high school diploma, a high school equivalency diploma, vocational training, an associate's degree, or a baccalaureate degree;

(b) allow an individual receiving temporary assistance for needy families to attend an approved educational program if the individual:

(i) meets the income and resource eligibility requirements for temporary assistance for needy families; and

(ii) qualifies as a full-time student pursuant to subsection (4); and

(c) limit approved educational programs to educational courses that are intended to promote economic self-sufficiency, not to exceed the baccalaureate level.

(3) The participants may apply for and may be eligible for child-care assistance provided by the department to be paid from the temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds that are transferred to discretionary funding for child care.

(4) A program must require a participant to be a full-time student, which means that a participant:

(a) shall maintain enrollment in at least 12 credit hours each semester or 30 credit hours a year; or

(b) must be a full-time high school student, student studying for a high school equivalency diploma, or vocational training student as defined by the institution in which the participant is enrolled;

(c) shall maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grade point scale or be making satisfactory progress as defined by the institution in which the participant is enrolled; and

(d) may not be allowed to remain in the program after receiving a baccalaureate degree.

(5) (a) There may be no more than 25 participants in the program at any one time.

(b) Temporary assistance for needy families participants within the 12-month period allowed by federal law do not count in the total number of participants in the parents as scholars program. However, the parents as scholars program may be used to extend a participant's education beyond the 12-month federal period.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

53-4-210. Tribal family assistance plan. (1) As used in this section, "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe that has a federally recognized governing body carrying out substantial governmental duties and powers over any area.

(2) The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 612, authorizes an Indian tribe or a combination of tribes to request federal approval to implement a tribal family assistance plan.

(3) (a) If a Montana Indian tribe or a combination of tribes receives approval to implement a tribal family assistance plan and chooses to base its share of the federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant on the same federal fiscal year 1994 service population as it plans

to serve under the tribal family assistance plan, the legislature shall continue to provide the Indian tribe or combination of tribes with a proportionate state share based on the maintenance of effort level established by the legislature for that biennium or the maintenance of effort level set in statute.

(b) A tribe or combination of tribes may use the state share for:

(i) monthly cash benefit payments; or

(ii) supportive services costs as allowed under the Montana state plan for the temporary assistance for needy families program.

(4) The Indian tribe or combination of tribes retain eligibility to form a partnership with the department and share funding for approved special projects related to welfare reform.

(5) The department shall provide the Indian tribe or combination of tribes with a reasonable level of technical assistance in the form of eligibility and case management training, policy interpretation, and automated system background information. The technical assistance must be provided at no cost to the Indian tribe or combination of tribes for a period of 1 year after the inception of the tribal family assistance plan. After 1 year, the Indian tribe or combination of tribes may contract with the department for continued technical assistance.

(6) The tribe or combination of tribes may contract with the department for the provision of participant services or associated administrative functions that the tribe and the department find appropriate.

(7) The department shall transfer to each new tribal family assistance plan after April 28, 1999, $100,000 of general fund money from existing general fund appropriation authority for each of the fiscal years of the succeeding biennium for the use of each tribe implementing a family assistance plan.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Jurisdiction on Indian lands, Title 2, ch. 1, part 3.

53-4-211. Administration of programs funded under temporary assistance for needy families block grant. (1) The department is authorized and is charged with the general administration and supervision of programs funded under the temporary assistance for needy families block grant under the powers, duties, and functions as prescribed in chapter 2 of this title.

(2) The state of Montana shall maintain a fiscal effort equivalent to at least 75% of its historic state expenditures, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(iii), governing maintenance of effort necessary to draw down the temporary assistance to needy families block grant.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(a); amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 2001.**

53-4-212. Department to adopt rules. (1) The department shall adopt rules and take action as necessary or desirable for the administration of public assistance programs.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the department shall adopt rules that may include but are not limited to rules concerning:

(a) eligibility requirements, including gross and net income limitations, resource limitations, and income and resource exclusions;

(b) amounts of assistance, methods for computing benefit amounts, and the length of time for which benefits may be granted;

(c) the degree of kinship required for a person to qualify as a specified caretaker relative in order to be eligible for assistance;

(d) procedures and policies for employment and training programs, requirements for participation in employment and training programs, and exemptions, if any, from participation requirements;

(e) requirements for specified caretaker relatives, including cooperation with assessments, the number of hours of participation required for each month, specific activities required to address employment barriers, and other terms of performance;

(f) eligibility for and terms and conditions of child-care assistance for cash assistance recipients, including maximum amounts of assistance payable and amounts of copayments required by specified caretaker relatives;

(g) eligibility criteria and participation requirements for nonfinancial assistance recipients;

(h) terms of ineligibility or sanctions against a specified caretaker relative or other family member who fails to enter into an individual responsibility plan or to comply with the individual's obligations under the plan;

(i) requirements, if any, for participation in a temporary assistance to needy families employment and training program;

(j) reporting requirements;

(k) sanctions, disqualification, or other penalties for failure or refusal to comply with the rules or requirements of a public assistance program;

(l) exemptions from the 60-month limitation on assistance provided in 53-4-231 based on hardship or for families that include an individual who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty, as defined in section 103 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 608, including but not limited to the duration of the exemption;

(m) individuals who must be included as members of an assistance unit;

(n) categories of aliens who may receive assistance, if any;

(o) requirements relating to the assignment of child support rights and cooperation in establishing paternity and obtaining child support;

(p) requirements for eligibility and other terms and conditions of other programs to strengthen and preserve families;

(q) special eligibility or participation requirements applicable to teenage parents, if any;

(r) conditions under which assistance may be continued when an adult or a dependent child is temporarily absent from the home and the length of time for which assistance may be continued;

(s) any random drug testing or reporting requirements for persons who are required to comply with the conditions provided under 53-4-231(3) and graduated sanctions that may include terms of ineligibility for violations of conditions of supervision or treatment requirements. The department may enter into agreements with the department of corrections regarding testing and reporting on offenders under the supervision of the department of corrections.

(t) approved educational programs, appropriate educational courses of study, employee assessment instruments, and administration of the Montana parents as scholars program provided for in 53-4-209.

(3) The department shall adopt rules establishing a net income limit of 250% of the current federal poverty level for federal funds or state general fund money used for participating families in the child care for working caretaker relatives program. The department may incorporate an earned income work disregard of $200 and an additional 25% disregard from the household's gross income to determine the household's net income.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(part (e)); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-4-213. Department rules binding. All rules of the department made under this part are binding upon the local offices of public assistance.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(part (e)); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-4-214. Distribution of copies of law and forms by department. The department shall have printed and shall distribute copies of this part to all local offices of public assistance and shall prescribe the form of and print and supply to the local office of public assistance blanks of applications, reports, and other forms that may be necessary in relation to the administration of public assistance programs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(d); amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 21, 42, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-4-215. Cooperation with federal government. The department shall cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual concern pertaining to assistance to dependent children, including the adoption of such methods of administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary for the efficient operation of the plan for such assistance.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(f).

53-4-216. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(g).

53-4-217. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 370, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(h).

53-4-218 through 53-4-220 reserved.

53-4-221. State administration. The department is responsible for the local administration and supervision of programs funded under the temporary assistance for needy families block grant.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(b); amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-222. County administration subject to rules prescribed by department. The local office of public assistance shall administer the provisions of this part in the respective counties subject to the rules prescribed by the department of public health and human services pursuant to the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(i); amd. Sec. 431, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

53-4-223. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 266, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-503(j); amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

53-4-224 through 53-4-230 reserved.

53-4-231. Eligibility. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2) through (6), assistanc may be granted under this part to:

(a) a dependent child;

(b) a specified caretaker relative or relatives, including but not limited to the natural o adoptive parents of a dependent child who:

(i) enters into an individual responsibility plan if required by the department; and

(ii) cooperates in all assessments and screening required by the department;

(c) the stepparent of a dependent child who lives with the child and the child's natural o adoptive parent;

(d) persons under 18 years of age who live in the home with a dependent child, includin but not limited to siblings related to the dependent child by blood, marriage, or adoption or b law;

(e) a needy pregnant woman with no other children who is receiving payments. Payment may begin no earlier than the third month prior to the month in which the child is expected t be born.

(2) Persons who are not citizens of the United States are eligible for assistance only a provided in sections 401 through 435 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunit Reconciliation Act of 1996, as codified in Title 8 of the United States Code.

(3) A person who has been convicted of a felony offense, an element of which involves th possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, as defined in 21 U.S.C. 802, is eligibl for public assistance if the person is actively complying with the conditions of supervision including participating in treatment if required, or has discharged the sentence associated wit the felony conviction.

(4) The following are not eligible for assistance:

(a) persons who are receiving supplemental security income payments under the Socia Security Act;

(b) an adult or a dependent child who is or is expected to be absent from the home of the specified caretaker relative continuously for a period of time prescribed by the department by rule;

(c) a specified caretaker relative who fails to comply with requirements for reporting the absence of a dependent child from the specified caretaker relative's home as prescribed by the department by rule;

(d) families in which the specified caretaker relative fails or refuses to assign child support rights to the department or to cooperate in establishing paternity or obtaining child support as required by the department by rule;

(e) families in which the specified caretaker relative or other adult household member, as specified by the department by rule, fails or refuses to:

(i) cooperate in any required screening or assessment; or

(ii) enter into an individual responsibility plan;

(f) teenage parents who fail or refuse to attend secondary school or another training program as required by the department by rule;

(g) teenage parents who are not living in an adult-supervised setting as defined by the department by rule;

(h) a fugitive felon or probation or parole violator as defined in section 103 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 608; and

(i) individuals who have fraudulently misrepresented their place of residence, as defined in section 103 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 608. The ineligibility continues for a period of 10 years beginning on the date of conviction.

(5) A family is not eligible for cash assistance if the family includes an adult who has received cash assistance in a program funded under temporary assistance for needy families in any state or states for 60 months or more, whether or not the months are consecutive, unless an exception is expressly granted by federal law.

(6) This part may not be interpreted to entitle any individual or family to assistance under programs funded by temporary assistance for needy families.

History: En. Sec. 3, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; Subds. (d) and (e) rep. Sec. 9, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 199, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 71-504; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, Sp. L. 1981; (3)En. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 53, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 230, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Fraudulently obtaining public assistance — theft, 53-2-107.

53-4-232. Application for assistance. Application for assistance under this part must be made to the department. The application must be made by the relative with whom the child is living or will live. One application may be made for several children of the same family if they reside with the same person. All individuals wishing to make application for this assistance must be given the opportunity to do so.

History: En. Sec. 4, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-505; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-233. Eligibility determination for applications. (1) Upon receiving an application for assistance under this part, the department shall promptly make an eligibility determination and notify the applicant in writing of the eligibility decision.

(2) Each applicant shall participate in any screening required by the department and must be informed of the applicant's right to a fair hearing and of the confidential nature of information secured.

(3) Upon completion of an eligibility determination and any required screening, aid must be furnished promptly to all eligible persons.

History: En. Sec. 5, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-506; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 23, 42, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Abused, neglected, and dependent children — action on reporting, 41-3-202.

53-4-234. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, Sp. L. 1981.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 1, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-501(2).

53-4-235. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, Sp. L. 1981.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 1, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-501(3).

53-4-236. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, Sp. L. 1981.

History: En. Subd. (a), Sec. 1, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-501(4).

53-4-237. Stepparent resources and income. Notwithstanding the provisions of 40-6-217, in the administration of this part the department may consider the income and resources of stepparents and other individuals who reside in the home as resources and income available to the household.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. 1981.

53-4-238 through 53-4-240 reserved.

53-4-241. Amount of assistance determined by department rules. The amount of cash assistance or nonfinancial assistance granted in any case must be determined according to the rules and standards of assistance established by the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-507; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-4-242. Periodic reconsideration of assistance. All assistance grants made under this part must be reconsidered as frequently as may be required by the rules of the department of public health and human services.

History: En. Sec. 8, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-509(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 266, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 432, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-4-243. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 8, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-509(part).

53-4-244. Payments to person interested in child's welfare in lieu of special guardianship. In lieu of guardianship proceedings, payments may be made in behalf of the child or children to another person found by the department to be interested in or concerned with the welfare of the needy child or children in accordance with the rules established by the department.

History: En. Sec. 8, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-509(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 398, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 433, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-245. Payments to Indians not to be decreased because of certain sums received by enrolled tribal members. When federal law or regulations require, any amount received by an enrolled member of a recognized Indian tribe as per capita payments or a share in the profits and receipts from tribal lands and interests or tribal enterprises may not be used to decrease the amount of assistance received under this part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-509(3).

53-4-246. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 571, L. 2001; Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 129, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 71, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 292, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-508; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 434, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 26, 27, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1999.

53-4-247. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 465, L. 2001; Sec. 43, Ch. 571, L. 2001; Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 9, Part 4, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 199, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 71-510; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-4-248. Parents liable to department for public assistance payments. (1) A payment of public assistance money made to or for the benefit of a dependent child creates a debt due and owing to the department by the natural or adoptive parents who are legally responsible for the support of the child by statute or court decree in an amount equal to the amount of public assistance paid. However, where the support obligation is based upon a court decree, the debt is limited to the amount of the court decree.

(2) The department is subrogated to the right of the child or person having the care, custody, and control of the child to prosecute any support action or execute any administrative remedy existing under the laws of the state to obtain reimbursement of any money expended. If a court decree enters judgment for an amount of support to be paid by an obligor parent, the department is subrogated to the debt created by the order and the money judgment is in favor of the department. An obligee may not commence an action to recover support due and owing to the obligee without first filing an affidavit with the court stating whether the obligee has received public assistance from any source and, if the obligee has received public assistance, that the obligee has notified the department in writing of the pending action.

(3) A debt arising under this section may not be incurred by or collected from a parent or other person while the parent or other person is the recipient of public assistance money for the benefit of minor dependent children.

(4) The remedies provided in this section are in addition to and not in lieu of existing common law and statutory law.

(5) The department or its legal representatives may, at any time consistent with the income, earning capacity, and resources of the debtor, petition the court having jurisdiction over the particular case to set or reset a level and schedule of payments to be paid upon the debt.

History: En. 71-511 by Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-511; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

Cross-References

State administrative collection of child support, Title 40, ch. 5, part 2.

Deduction from wages for owed child support, Title 40, ch. 5, part 3.

When parent liable for necessaries supplied to child, 40-6-215.

53-4-249. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1995.

53-4-250. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2001.

53-4-251 through 53-4-254 reserved.

53-4-255. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 2001.

53-4-256. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 482, L. 2001.

53-4-257. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 482, L. 2001.

53-4-258 and 53-4-259 reserved.

53-4-260. Child support payment pass-through and income disregard. (1) For those families receiving monthly grants of temporary assistance for needy families, an amount equal to the amount of current child support collected on behalf of the family for the current month, not including arrearages, up to $100 for each family, must be disregarded in determining the income and eligibility calculations for the grant, and that amount must be passed through to the family.

(2) The department shall use temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds received as federal special revenue for the purposes of subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 558, L. 2005.

Part 3
Subsidized Adoption
(Renumbered and Repealed)

53-4-301. Renumbered 52-2-501. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-302. Renumbered 52-2-502. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-303. Renumbered 52-2-503. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-304. Renumbered 52-2-504. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-305. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1989.
History: En. 71-1812 by Sec. 7, Ch. 434, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1812.

53-4-306. Renumbered 52-2-505. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-307. Renumbered 52-2-506. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-308. Renumbered 52-2-507. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-309. Renumbered 52-2-508. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-310. Renumbered 52-2-509. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-311. Renumbered 52-2-510. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 4
Child Adoption Agencies
(Renumbered)

53-4-401. Renumbered 52-2-401. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-402. Renumbered 52-2-402. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-403. Renumbered 52-2-403. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-404. Renumbered 52-2-404. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-405. Renumbered 52-2-405. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-406. Renumbered 52-2-406. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-4-407. Renumbered 52-2-407. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 5
Child Day-Care Centers
(Renumbered and Repealed)

53-4-501. Renumbered 52-2-702(1) and 52-2-703. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-502. Renumbered 52-2-721. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-503. Renumbered 52-2-704(2)(d) through (2)(g). Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-504. Renumbered 52-2-731. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-505. Renumbered 52-2-734. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-506. Renumbered 52-2-735. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-507. Renumbered 52-2-722. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-508. Renumbered 52-2-723. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-509. Renumbered 52-2-724. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-510. Renumbered 52-2-725. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-511. Renumbered 52-2-733. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-512. Renumbered 52-2-732. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-513. Renumbered 52-2-726. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-514. Renumbered 52-2-713. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-515. Renumbered 52-2-741. Code Commissioner, 1989.

53-4-516. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 1981.
History: **En. Secs. 1, 3, Ch. 637, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 606, L. 1981.**

Part 6
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — Cash Assistance

53-4-601. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 2005.**

53-4-602. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Cash assistance" means the programs designed to provide families with monthly cash grants and opportunities leading to self-support and funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(a).

(2) "Child-care assistance" means payments to or on behalf of the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child to defray the cost of having a third party care for the child.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Section 1931 medicaid benefits" means medical assistance authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1396u-1 for families eligible for the Montana medicaid program, as established in Title 53, chapter 6, based on the department's income limitations, as increased each year by that year's increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners, compiled by the U.S. department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, and other standards approved by the federal government for 1996 for the federal aid to families with dependent children program, as that program was established under Title IV of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 41, L. 2019.**

53-4-603. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 465, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 515, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 1999.**

53-4-604 and 53-4-605 reserved.

53-4-606. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 465, L. 2001.**

53-4-607. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 465, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 486, L. 1997.**

53-4-608. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 465, L. 2001.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 486, L. 1997.**

53-4-609. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

53-4-610 reserved.

53-4-611. Child-care assistance. Within available funding, the department may provide child-care assistance to:

(1) all families receiving cash assistance if child care is necessary to allow the parent to engage in paid employment; and

(2) families receiving cash assistance if child care is necessary to allow either or both parents to engage in the activities required by an individual responsibility plan.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 41, L. 2019.**

53-4-612. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 465, L. 2001.**

53-4-613. Employment and training program. In cases in which the department determines that participation in the employment and training program would be appropriate for a recipient of cash assistance, the recipient may be required to participate in employment and training as one of the eligibility conditions.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

Part 7
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) — Training

53-4-701. Repealed. Sec. 43, Ch. 465, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-4-702. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Cash assistance" means the programs designed to provide families with monthly cash grants and opportunities leading to self-support and funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(a).

(b) The term does not include nonfinancial assistance.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Nonfinancial assistance" means the programs funded, in part, with temporary assistance for needy families, as provided in 45 CFR 260.31(b).

(4) "Temporary assistance for needy families" means the block grant program established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 435, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-703. Employment and training program established. The department shall establish and administer an intensive employment and training program in accordance with the requirements of section 103 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 607.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

53-4-704. Placement of cash assistance recipients for purpose of training. (1) The department or a person designated by the department may place an individual receiving cash assistance into a position of employment with a public or private entity for the purpose of training the individual in the knowledge and skills necessary for the individual to become successfully employed.

(2) The department may, pursuant to subsection (1), place an individual into a position at a worksite only with the permission and assistance of the public or private entity at the worksite under a written training agreement between the department and the entity.

(3) The placement of an individual into a position at a public or private worksite pursuant to subsection (1) is only for the purpose of training the individual in employment knowledge and skills and is not for the purpose of providing paid employment for the individual. The placement may not supplant an existing employment position or another individual already employed at the worksite. Placement of the individual at the public or private worksite pursuant to subsection (1) should last no longer than is necessary to achieve the employment training purposes of the program.

(4) The private or public entity where an individual is placed pursuant to subsection (1) may choose whether or not to later employ the individual after the conclusion of the individual's training.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 124, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-705. Services and activities. Under the program provided for in 53-4-703, the department shall make available a broad range of services and activities to assist recipients of cash assistance as specified by the department by rule.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-706. Participation requirements. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department may require individuals to participate in an employment and training program as a condition of their eligibility for cash assistance.

(2) To the extent that the program is available and that state resources permit, the department shall require recipients of cash assistance to participate in the program if the department determines that it is an appropriate activity for the recipient and includes participation as a condition of the recipient's individual responsibility plan.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-707. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 491, L. 1995.

53-4-708. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 550, L. 1989.

53-4-709 through 53-4-714 reserved.

53-4-715. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 550, L. 1989.

53-4-716. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 550, L. 1989.

53-4-717. Sanctions. If an individual receiving cash assistance is required to participate in an employment and training program as a condition of an individual responsibility plan and fails without good cause to participate, the individual must be sanctioned in accordance with rules established by the department. Except as required by federal law, a sanction may not include any restriction or termination of food stamps or medicaid coverage, and child-care benefits may only be continued for employment-related activities required by the individual responsibility plan that the participant has signed that are to be performed during the sanction period. The department may establish rules to ensure that individuals who participate in good faith are sanctioned properly and obtain additional case management services to ensure compliance with the individual responsibility plan.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

53-4-718. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 550, L. 1989.

53-4-719. Rulemaking authority. The department of public health and human services may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 550, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 436, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-4-720. Repealed. Sec. 51, Ch. 486, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 550, L. 1989.

53-4-721. Repealed. Sec. 32, Ch. 41, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 458, L. 1999.

Parts 8 and 9 reserved

Part 10
Children's Health Insurance

53-4-1001. *(Temporary)* **Short title.** This part may be cited as the "Children's Health Insurance Program Act". *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 571, L. 1999.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

53-4-1002. *(Temporary)* **Purpose — definition.** (1) The purpose of this part is to create a program to provide health care to children who are not eligible for health care services under the Montana medicaid program. These health care services may be provided by the payment for health care through an insurance plan, a health maintenance organization, a managed care plan, or direct payment to a health care provider.

(2) As used in 53-4-1003 through 53-4-1005 and 53-4-1007 through 53-4-1010, "program" means the state children's health insurance program. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 2001.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Cross-References

Disability insurance, Title 33, ch. 22.

Health maintenance organizations, Title 33, ch. 31.

Managed care plan network adequacy and quality assurance, Title 33, ch. 36.

53-4-1003. *(Temporary)* **Establishment and administration of program.** The department of public health and human services may establish, administer, and monitor a program to provide health care to uninsured children. The department may not use money appropriated for this program to expand eligibility criteria for the Montana medicaid program. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 571, L. 1999.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Cross-References

Montana Medicaid program, Title 53, ch. 6, part 1.

53-4-1004. *(Temporary)* **Eligibility for program — rulemaking.** (1) To be considered eligible for the program, a child:

(a) must be 18 years of age or younger;

(b) must have a combined family income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level or at a lower level determined by the department of public health and human services as provided in subsection (4);

(c) may not already be covered by private insurance that offers creditable coverage, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 300gg(c), for 3 months prior to enrollment in the program or since birth, whichever period is less;

(d) may not be eligible for medicaid benefits; and

(e) must be a United States citizen or qualified alien and a Montana resident.

(2) The department of public health and human services shall adopt rules that establish the program's criteria for residency. The criteria must conform as nearly as practicable with the residency requirements for medicaid eligibility.

(3) Subject to 53-4-1009(3), rules governing eligibility may also include financial standards and criteria for income and resources, treatment of resources, and nonfinancial criteria.

(4) If the department determines that there is insufficient funding for the program, it may lower the percentage of the federal poverty level established in subsection (1)(b) in order to reduce the number of persons who may be eligible to participate or may limit the amount, scope, or duration of specific services provided. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999; sec. 14, I.M. No. 155, approved November 4, 2008.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 87, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 151, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 14, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008, provided: "(1) [Section 11], amending 53-4-1004, terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that the federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Department to adopt residency requirements for Medicaid, 53-6-113.

53-4-1005. *(Temporary)* **Benefits provided.** (1) Benefits provided to participants in the program may include but are not limited to:

(a) inpatient and outpatient hospital services;

(b) physician, physician assistant, and advanced practice registered nurse services;

(c) laboratory and x-ray services;

(d) well-child and well-baby services;

(e) immunizations;

(f) clinic services;

(g) dental services;

(h) prescription drugs;

(i) mental health and substance abuse treatment services;

(j) habilitative services as defined in 53-4-1103;

(k) hearing and vision exams; and

(l) eyeglasses.

(2) The program must comply with the provisions of 33-22-153 and 53-6-197.

(3) The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to its authority under 53-4-1009, allowing it to cover significant dental needs beyond those covered in the basic plan. Expenditures under this subsection may not exceed $100,000 in state funds, plus any matched federal funds, each fiscal year.

(4) The department is specifically prohibited from providing payment for birth control contraceptives under this program.

(5) The department shall notify enrollees of any restrictions on access to health care providers, of any restrictions on the availability of services by out-of-state providers, and of the methodology for an out-of-state provider to be an eligible provider. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999; sec. 3, Ch. 169, L. 2007; sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 2013; sec. 5, Ch. 399, L. 2017.)*

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 97, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 88, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 488, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 17, Ch. 88, L. 2023, in (1)(b) after "physician" inserted "physician assistant"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 488, L. 2023, in (2) at end inserted "and 53-6-197". Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Contingent Termination: Section 5, Ch. 399, L. 2017, provided: "[Section 1] [53-4-1005] terminates on occurrence of the contingency contained in section 15, Chapter 571, Laws of 1999."

Contingent Termination: Section 10, Ch. 97, L. 2013, provided that the 2013 amendments to this section terminate on the occurrence of the contingency contained in sec. 15, Ch. 571, Laws of 1999.

Contingent Termination: Section 3, Ch. 169, L. 2007, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

53-4-1006. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1999.

53-4-1007. *(Temporary)* **Department may contract for services.** (1) The department of public health and human services may administer the program directly or contract with insurance companies or other entities to provide services for a set monthly or yearly fee based on the number of participants in the program and the types of services provided or based on a fee for service as established by the department.

(2) The department of public health and human services may contract for a health care service based on a fee for service when the department does not contract for a health care service through an insurance plan, a health maintenance organization, or a managed care plan. A contract entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2009, may not limit enrollee access to providers who are willing to provide services at the rates provided for under the program. In operating the program and providing health services, the department may:

(a) pay providers on a fee-for-service basis in a self-funded program and contract with an insurance company, third-party administrator, or other entity to provide administrative services, including but not limited to processing and payment of claims with program funds;

(b) purchase health coverage for eligible children from an insurance company or other entity through premiums, capitated payments, or other appropriate methods;

(c) purchase health coverage as provided in subsection (2)(b) for some types of health services and contract directly with providers for other types of health services on a fee-for-service basis; or

(d) pay providers on a fee-for-service basis and directly provide administrative services in a self-funded program.

(3) If the department of public health and human services contracts with an insurance company or other entity to administer the program as provided in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c), not more than 12% of the contract payment may be used for administrative expenses, including:

(a) risk charges; and

(b) any applicable assessments, fees, and taxes.

(4) If the department operates the program by providing administrative services under subsection (2)(a), (2)(c), or (2)(d), the department's administrative expense may not exceed the lesser of 10% of total program expenses or the applicable federal limitation, excluding costs for federally required audits.

(5) (a) An insurance company or other entity that contracts with the department for a fully insured contract as provided in subsection (2)(b) shall calculate the surplus account balance at the end of each contract year and may retain an amount equal to 50% of the risk charge allowed under the contract. The remainder of the surplus balance must be deposited in the state special revenue account provided for in 53-4-1012.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (5):

(i) "risk charge" means the percentage of the administrative expense allowed in the contract for assuming the risk; and

(ii) "surplus account balance" means funds that remain after all claims and all administrative expenses have been paid for a claim period. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999; sec. 7, Ch. 565, L. 2005; sec. 5, Ch. 129, L. 2007.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 476, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 565, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 63, L. 2015.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 5, Ch. 129, L. 2007, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Contingent Termination: Section 7, Ch. 565, L. 2005, provided: "[Sections 1 through 3] [17-7-304, 53-4-1007, and 53-4-1012] terminate on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued."

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

53-4-1008. *(Temporary)* **Participant cost sharing.** The department of public health and human services may charge fees to participants in the program. The fees may include:

(1) monthly or yearly enrollment fees;

(2) minimum charges to be incurred or spent before benefits are paid;

(3) cost sharing for individual benefits; and

(4) other types of charges assessed as part of the program. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 571, L. 1999.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

53-4-1009. *(Temporary)* **Department to adopt rules — review by interim committee.** (1) The department of public health and human services shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of the program, including rules governing the application process, termination, and confidentiality.

(2) The rules may include, as necessary:

(a) the amount, scope, and duration of specific services provided;

(b) criteria to ensure that the services provided are medically necessary and cost-effective;

(c) provisions for participant cost sharing, including, at the department's discretion:

(i) the establishment of enrollment fees, premiums, deductibles, and copayments; and

(ii) the process for setting the amounts of enrollment fees, premiums, deductibles, and copayments, taking into account a participant's family income and resources; and

(d) the type of professionals who may deliver services or direct the delivery of services and the qualifications required of those professionals.

(3) In adopting rules, the department shall consider the federal requirements on which the receipt of the federal share of program funds are contingent and may not include any provision that places that funding at risk. Rules adopted by the department must, when appropriate, take into account the availability of appropriated funds.

(4) Rules adopted by the department pursuant to 53-4-1004 and 53-4-1009 must be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate interim committee that examines issues related to children and families. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 476, L. 2001.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee, 5-5-225.

53-4-1010. *(Temporary)* **Sharing of information.** The department of public health and human services, health care providers, insurance companies, and other entities may share only health care information, medical records, income, and other participant eligibility information for the purposes of administering the program. The limitations on disclosure of information provided in 33-19-306 do not apply if they conflict with this part. To the extent possible, the information may not be disclosed in a manner that would violate the privacy of an individual or be released to any entity that is not necessary for the administration of the program. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 571, L. 1999.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

53-4-1011. *(Temporary)* **Tobacco settlement funds to general fund.** Unless deposited into the trust fund, provided for in 17-6-603, or a state special revenue account, provided for in 17-6-606, funds received from the tobacco settlement must be deposited in the general fund. Any funds appropriated from the general fund for the children's health insurance program that remain unexpended at the end of the biennium must be transferred to the general fund. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 571, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 146, approved Nov. 5, 2002.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 15, Ch. 571, L. 1999, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

53-4-1012. *(Temporary)* **State special revenue account.** (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the state children's health insurance program administered by the department of public health and human services. Any interest or income derived from the account must be deposited in the account.

(2) Money deposited in this account must be used by the department to cover children, to reduce or maintain premiums, to pay health care claims, or to establish and maintain a reserve. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 7, Ch. 565, L. 2005; sec. 5, Ch. 129, L. 2007.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 565, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 486, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 5, Ch. 129, L. 2007, provided: "(1) [This act] terminates on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued.

(2) The governor shall transmit a copy of the certification to the code commissioner.

(3) Any excess funds remaining upon the termination of the program must be transferred to the general fund."

Contingent Termination: Section 7, Ch. 565, L. 2005, provided: "[Sections 1 through 3] [17-7-304, 53-4-1007, and 53-4-1012] terminate on the date that the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor that the federal government has terminated the program or that federal funding for the program has been discontinued."

Part 11
Healthy Montana Kids Plan

53-4-1101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Healthy Montana Kids Plan Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1102. Purpose. The purposes of this part are to:

(1) create the healthy Montana kids plan, which offers health coverage to uninsured children by increasing eligibility for the children's health insurance program and the Montana medicaid program and by helping families cover their children under employer-sponsored plans;

(2) provide for active enrollment of children in the plan; and

(3) fully utilize available federal funds to provide health coverage for children.

History: En. Sec. 2, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1103. Definitions. For purposes of part 10 and this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Comprehensive" means health insurance having benefits at least as extensive as those provided under the children's health insurance program.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Enrollee" means a child who is enrolled or in the process of being enrolled in the plan, including children already enrolled in the programs described in 53-4-1104(2).

(4) (a) "Enrollment partner" means an organization or individual approved by the department to assist in enrolling eligible children in the plan.

(b) An enrollment partner may be but is not limited to:

(i) a licensed health care provider;

(ii) a school;

(iii) a community-based organization; or

(iv) a government agency.

(5) "Habilitative services" means services to help a child maintain, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living or to prevent deterioration of skills and that may be offered in a variety of settings. The services include but are not limited to:

(a) physical therapy;

(b) occupational therapy;

(c) speech-language pathology; and

(d) behavioral health treatment, including applied behavior analysis provided by a board-certified behavior analyst.

(6) "Health coverage" means a program administered by the department or a disability insurance plan, referred to in 33-1-207(1)(b), that provides public or private health insurance for children.

(7) "Income" has the meaning provided in 15-30-2337(9)(a).

(8) "Plan" means the healthy Montana kids plan established in 53-4-1104.

(9) "Premium" means the amount of money charged to provide coverage under a public or private health coverage plan.

(10) "Presumptive eligibility" has the meaning provided in 42 CFR 457.355.

History: En. Sec. 3, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 399, L. 2017.

53-4-1104. Healthy Montana kids plan. (1) There is a healthy Montana kids plan that provides comprehensive health coverage to uninsured children who are residents of the state.

(2) The plan includes and coordinates access to health coverage for enrollees in the children's health insurance program and the Montana medicaid program.

(3) The department shall administer the plan.

(4) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall use the name of the plan on documents associated with programs described in subsection (2), including but not limited to advertising, brochures, applications, and membership cards.

(5) State funding of the plan is contingent upon the availability of federal matching funds through the children's health insurance program or the Montana medicaid program.

History: En. Sec. 4, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1105. Rulemaking — active enrollment — plan coordination. (1) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this part, including plan administration, plan enrollment, outreach efforts, and standards of performance to allow enrollment partners to assist in enrolling children in the plan or other health coverage plans administered by the department.

(2) The rules must:

(a) establish a process for identifying and approving enrollment partners;

(b) create and define an active enrollment process;

(c) promote seamless movement between programs described in 53-4-1104(2);

(d) promote accessible enrollment through enrollment partners;

(e) provide, to the extent permitted by law, a single point of access in the department for plan members;

(f) define income for purposes of determining eligibility for children's health coverage programs within the plan;

(g) provide for presumptive eligibility; and

(h) encourage enrollment partners to actively enroll as many eligible, uninsured children as possible in the plan or in an employer-sponsored plan as described in 53-4-1108.

(3) The rules may include the development of enrollment partner training, technical assistance programs, and performance measures.

(4) The rules may provide for an exemption from the active enrollment process based upon an individual showing of:

(a) religious conviction;

(b) private insurance that offers creditable coverage, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 300gg(c), obtained by the parents for the child from a private group or individual health insurance issuer or under a self-funded employer health plan; or

(c) other compelling circumstances.

(5) The rules governing eligibility and premium assistance must be consistent with this part. Rules may include but are not limited to financial standards and criteria for income, nonfinancial criteria, family responsibility, residency, the application process, termination of eligibility, definition of terms, and confidentiality of applicant and recipient information.

History: En. Sec. 5, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1106 and 53-4-1107 reserved.

53-4-1108. Enrollment in employer-sponsored plans. The department may:

(1) provide premium assistance to families who have access to one or more employer-sponsored comprehensive group health insurance plans in order to provide coverage for eligible children. The premium assistance may not exceed the cost of coverage for that child under the plan.

(2) provide assistance to employers who establish a premium-only health benefits plan under section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 125, for the purpose of enrolling children in such a plan and allowing their families to pay any premium with pretax dollars.

History: En. Sec. 6, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1109. Federal financial participation. The department shall request any necessary state plan amendments or waivers of federal requirements in order to allow receipt of the maximum available federal funds to facilitate implementation of this part, subject to appropriation of necessary matching state funds.

History: En. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

53-4-1110. *(Temporary)* **Exemption from resource test.** An otherwise applicable eligibility resource test provided for in 53-6-113(6) and 53-6-131(9) does not apply to plan applicants. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

53-4-1110. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Exemption from resource test.** An otherwise applicable eligibility resource test provided for in 53-6-113(6) and 53-6-131(8) does not apply to plan applicants.

History: En. Sec. 8, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 415, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-4-1111 through 53-4-1114 reserved.

53-4-1115. Special revenue account. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department for the purposes provided in subsection (2). There must be paid into the account the amounts collected under 33-2-708(3)(b). Any interest or income derived from the account must be deposited in the account.

(2) Money in the account:

(a) is to be used solely to cover the number of additional enrollees in the plan that exceeds the number of enrollees as of November 4, 2008, within the limits provided in 53-4-1004, 53-6-131, and this part, and to cover the costs of enrollment, including premium assistance, under 53-4-1108(1), and to pay administrative costs associated with expanded eligibility, and to establish and maintain a reserve; and

(b) may be used only to match federal funds available under the children's health insurance program and the Montana medicaid program.

(3) The unexpended balance of an appropriation from the account must remain in the account and may be used only for the purposes stated in subsection (2).

(4) The special revenue account does not affect and is not exclusive of any other sources of funding for the programs described in 53-4-1104(2), including the special revenue account provided for in 53-4-1012.

(5) If the department determines that there is insufficient funding for the purposes of subsection (2), it may reduce eligibility requirements for participants in the children's health insurance program as provided in 53-4-1004(4).

History: En. Sec. 9, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008.

CHAPTER 5
ADULT SERVICES

Part 1 — Problems of Aging (Renumbered)
Part 2 — Protective Services (Renumbered)
Part 3 — Adult Foster Family Care (Renumbered)
Part 4 — Old-Age Assistance Recovery (Repealed)
Part 5 — Montana Elder and Developmentally Disabled Abuse Prevention Act (Renumbered)
Part 6 — State Plan on Aging (Renumbered)
Part 7 — Montana Older Americans Act (Renumbered)
Part 8 — Ombudsman Services (Renumbered)
Part 9 — Notice of Medicare Assignments
53-5-901. Medicare assignments — notice required.

Part 1
Problems of Aging
(Renumbered)

53-5-101. Renumbered 52-3-101. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-102. Renumbered 52-3-102. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-103. Renumbered 52-3-103. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-104 through 53-5-110 reserved.

53-5-111. Renumbered 52-3-111. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 2
Protective Services
(Renumbered)

53-5-201. Renumbered 52-3-201. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-202. Renumbered 52-3-202. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-203. Renumbered 52-3-203. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-204. Renumbered 52-3-204. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-205. Renumbered 52-3-205. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-206. Renumbered 52-3-206. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-207. Renumbered 52-3-207. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 3
Adult Foster Family Care
(Renumbered)

53-5-301. Renumbered 52-3-301. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-302. Renumbered 52-3-302. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-303. Renumbered 52-3-303. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-304. Renumbered 52-3-304. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-305. Renumbered 52-3-305. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-306 through 53-5-310 reserved.

53-5-311. Renumbered 52-3-311. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-312. Renumbered 52-3-312. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-313. Renumbered 52-3-313. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-314. Renumbered 52-3-314. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 4
Old-Age Assistance Recovery
(Repealed)

53-5-401. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 11, Part 3, Ch. 82, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 71-412; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 324, L. 1991.

Part 5
Montana Elder and Developmentally Disabled Abuse Prevention Act
(Renumbered)

53-5-501. Renumbered 52-3-801. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-502. Renumbered 52-3-802. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-503. Renumbered 52-3-803. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-504. Renumbered 52-3-804. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-505. Renumbered 52-3-805. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-506 through 53-5-510 reserved.

53-5-511. Renumbered 52-3-811. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-512. Renumbered 52-3-812. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-513. Renumbered 52-3-813. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-514. Renumbered 52-3-814. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-515 through 53-5-520 reserved.

53-5-521. Renumbered 52-3-821. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-522 through 53-5-524 reserved.

53-5-525. Renumbered 52-3-825. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 6
State Plan on Aging
(Renumbered)

53-5-601. Renumbered 52-3-401. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-602. Renumbered 52-3-402. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-603. Renumbered 52-3-403. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-604. Renumbered 52-3-404. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-605. Renumbered 52-3-405. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-606. Renumbered 52-3-406. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 7
Montana Older Americans Act
(Renumbered)

53-5-701. Renumbered 52-3-501. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-702. Renumbered 52-3-502. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-703. Renumbered 52-3-503. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-704. Renumbered 52-3-504. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-705. Renumbered 52-3-505. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-706. Renumbered 52-3-506. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 8
Ombudsman Services (Renumbered)

53-5-801. Renumbered 52-3-601. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-802. Renumbered 52-3-602. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-803. Renumbered 52-3-603. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-804. Renumbered 52-3-604. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-5-805. Renumbered 52-3-605. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 9
Notice of Medicare Assignments

53-5-901. Medicare assignments — notice required. (1) A health care provider shall give notice to a medicare patient as to whether or not the provider accepts payment for services on the basis of an assignment, pursuant to section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(3)(B)(ii), the terms of which provide that the full charge for services s the amount of the medicare-approved rate for payment of the applicable service plus any deductible, coinsurance, or copayment required to be paid by the patient.

(2) The notice required under subsection (1) must be posted by each health care provider in a conspicuous area in the provider's place of business.

(3) For purposes of this section, "health care provider" means a person, firm, corporation, association, or institution that provides goods or services subject to reimbursement under the federal medicare program in accordance with Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 306, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1904, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 6
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Part 1 — Medical Assistance — Medicaid

53-6-101. Montana medicaid program — authorization of services.
53-6-102. Repealed.
53-6-103. Repealed.
53-6-104. Freedom of doctors to treat recipients of medical assistance — freedom to select doctor.
53-6-105. Discrimination prohibited.
53-6-106. Health care facility standards — definitions.
53-6-107. Sanctions — penalties.
53-6-108. Rules governing sanctions or remedies.
53-6-109. Consistent regulation of long-term care facilities — rulemaking authority — timeframes.
53-6-110. Report and recommendations on medicaid funding.
53-6-111. Department charged with administration and supervision of medical assistance program — overpayment recovery — sanctions for fraudulent and abusive activities — adoption of rules.
53-6-112. Department to print and distribute copies of part and certain forms.
53-6-113. Department to adopt rules.
53-6-114. Rules of department binding.
53-6-115. Contracts with other agencies.
53-6-116. Medicaid managed care — capitated health care.
53-6-117. Participation requirements.
53-6-118 through 53-6-120 reserved.
53-6-121. Local administration of medical assistance.
53-6-122. Telehealth services — requirements — limitations.
53-6-123 reserved.
53-6-124. Definitions.

53-6-125. Physician services reimbursement.
53-6-126. Repealed.
53-6-127. Rulemaking — policy adjusters.
53-6-128 through 53-6-130 reserved.
53-6-131. Eligibility requirements.
53-6-132. Application for assistance — exception.
53-6-133. Eligibility determination.
53-6-134. Extension of eligibility for medical assistance to persons terminated from section 1931 medicaid program.
53-6-135. Prohibited reimbursement or coverage.
53-6-136 through 53-6-138 reserved.
53-6-139. Terminated.
53-6-140. Account not to be treated as asset for purposes of eligibility.
53-6-141. Repealed.
53-6-142. Periodic review of assistance.
53-6-143. Medical assistance liens and recoveries.
53-6-144. Relative's responsibility.
53-6-145. Agencies to adopt rules governing personal assistant services.
53-6-146. Protection of tribal and Indian health service facilities from cost-shifting — seeking to leverage federa financial participation for state children's health insurance program and medicaid.
53-6-147 reserved.
53-6-148. Indian health services federal revenue account.
53-6-149. State special revenue fund account — administration.
53-6-150. Donated funds.
53-6-151. Medicaid reserve account.
53-6-152 through 53-6-154 reserved.
53-6-155. Definitions.
53-6-156. Medicaid fraud control unit.
53-6-157. Powers and duties of medicaid fraud control unit.
53-6-158. Cooperation of governmental agencies with medicaid fraud control unit.
53-6-159. Permitted disclosure of information obtained in medicaid fraud control unit investigations.
53-6-160. Truthfulness, completeness, and accuracy of submissions to medicaid agencies.
53-6-161. Terminated.
53-6-162. Terminated.
53-6-163. Terminated.
53-6-164. Terminated.
53-6-165. Definitions.
53-6-166. Period of ineligibility for medical assistance when assets disposed of for less than fair market value — undue hardship exception — department to adopt rules.
53-6-167. Recovery of medicaid benefits after recipient's death.
53-6-168. Payment of certain funds of deceased recipient to department.
53-6-169. Payment of excess burial funds or assets to department.
53-6-170. Terminated.
53-6-171. Department lien upon real property of certain medicaid recipients — conditions.
53-6-172. Notice of intent to impose lien — opportunity for hearing.
53-6-173. Contents of lien document — scope of obligation secured.
53-6-174. Filing of lien — effect of filing — priority — renewal — dissolution of lien.
53-6-175. Recovery of medical assistance secured by lien — application for issuance of writ of execution.
53-6-176. Notice of application — proof of notice — request for issuance of writ of execution.
53-6-177. Action to challenge issuance of writ of execution.
53-6-178. Department right of recovery — limitations.
53-6-179. Payment of amount due — periodic payments — substitute security.
53-6-180. Waiver of recovery in cases of undue hardship — rulemaking.
53-6-181. Delay in recovery — sale subject to lien.
53-6-182. Spouse's limited exemption from lien.
53-6-183. Issuance of writ of execution by clerk of court.
53-6-184. Effect of sale — title acquired.
53-6-185. Disposition of sale proceeds — application of recovered medical assistance.
53-6-186. Action by department or other person to preserve property subject to lien — recovery of costs.
53-6-187. Time for filing of application.
53-6-188. Coordination of lien with other medical assistance recoveries.
53-6-189. Rulemaking authority.
53-6-190. Receipt of transferred assets for less than fair market value — fine.
53-6-191 through 53-6-194 reserved.
53-6-195. Medicaid program for workers with disabilities — purpose — eligibility — participant costs.
53-6-196. Performance-based rulemaking — privacy exemption.
53-6-197. Abortion coverage.
53-6-198. Enhanced rate to increase access to in-state mental health services for high-risk children with multiagency service needs — reporting requirement — rulemaking.

Part 2 — Renal Disease Treatment Program (Renumbered)

Part 3 — Montana State Hospital (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 4 — Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care Medicaid Services

53-6-401. Definitions.

53-6-402. Medicaid-funded home and community-based services — waivers — funding limitations — populations — services — providers — long-term care preadmission screening — powers and duties of department — rulemaking authority.

53-6-403. Home and community-based services waivers — legislative findings and intent.

53-6-404. Use of waiver funding.

53-6-405. Fraud prevention education — department responsibilities.

53-6-406. Fiscal accountability for home and community-based services — report to legislature.

53-6-407. Notification required before termination of waiver participation.

53-6-408 through 53-6-412 reserved.

53-6-413. Substantive changes to waiver provisions — rulemaking requirements — definition.

Part 5 — Traumatic Brain Injury — Services

53-6-501. Traumatic brain injury defined.

53-6-502. Traumatic brain injury trust fund established — source of funds — uses.

Part 6 — Long-Term Care Reform

53-6-601. Short title.

53-6-602. Purpose — policy.

53-6-603. Long-term care service development — coordination — delivery.

Part 7 — Medicaid Managed Care

53-6-701. Policy of medicaid managed care — system for integrated health care services.

53-6-702. Definitions.

53-6-703. Repealed.

53-6-704. Different benefit packages.

53-6-705. Requirements for managed health care entities.

53-6-706. Requirements relating to enrollees.

53-6-707. Payment reductions and adjustments — freedom to contract.

53-6-708. Waiver.

53-6-709. Legislative auditor — oversight.

53-6-710. Advisory council — duties.

53-6-711. Requests for proposals and contracts — review requirements — public notice and comment.

Part 8 — Long-Term Care Insurance Partnerships

53-6-801. Purpose.

53-6-802. Definitions.

53-6-803. Long-term care insurance partnerships authorized.

53-6-804. Rulemaking and certification of policies by commissioner and department.

53-6-805. Department to make rules.

Part 9 — Medicaid Medical Savings Account Pilot Project (Terminated)

Part 10 — Prescription Drug Plus Discount Program

53-6-1001. Definitions.

53-6-1002. Prescription drug plus discount program — rules.

53-6-1003. Eligibility — income determination.

53-6-1004. State pharmacy access program.

53-6-1005. Department administration — pharmacy access.

53-6-1006. Prescription drug consumer information and technical assistance program — education outreach for consumers and professionals.

53-6-1007 through 53-6-1009 reserved.

53-6-1010. Specifications for administration of program.

53-6-1011. Appeals.

53-6-1012. Obligations of department.

53-6-1013. Contracting.

53-6-1014 through 53-6-1019 reserved.

53-6-1020. Contingency on expenditure.

Part 11 — Prevention and Stabilization Account

53-6-1101. Prevention and stabilization account — allocation of proceeds.

Part 12 — Health and Medicaid Initiatives Account

53-6-1201. Special revenue fund — health and medicaid initiatives.

Part 13 — Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act

53-6-1301. Short title.
53-6-1302. Montana HELP Act program — legislative findings and purpose.
53-6-1303. Definitions.
53-6-1304. Montana HELP Act program — eligibility for coverage of health care services — exceptions.
53-6-1305. Montana HELP Act program — delivery of health care services — third-party administrator — rulemaking.
53-6-1306. Prohibition on copayments.
53-6-1307. Premiums — collection of overdue premiums — nonpayment as voluntary disenrollment — reenrollment — exemptions.
53-6-1308. Community engagement requirements — countable activities — exemptions — self-attestation.
53-6-1309. Community engagement — reporting — suspension — audit.
53-6-1310. Health risk analysis.
53-6-1311. Medicaid program reforms.
53-6-1312. Health care services payment schedules.
53-6-1313. Reduction in federal medical assistance percentage.
53-6-1314. Disenrollment for failure to report change in circumstances.
53-6-1315. Montana HELP Act special revenue account.
53-6-1316. Repealed.
53-6-1317. Repealed.
53-6-1318. Rulemaking authority.
53-6-1319 through 53-6-1324 reserved.
53-6-1325. Report to legislature.

Part 14 — Medicaid Overpayment Audits

53-6-1401. Definitions.
53-6-1402. Overpayment audit procedures — provider records — limitations on record requests and reviews — onsite audits.
53-6-1403. Extrapolation and statistical sampling prohibited — exceptions.
53-6-1404. Peer review of overpayment findings.
53-6-1405. Audit completion — notice of overpayment determination — opportunity to resubmit claim.
53-6-1406. Publication of audit results.
53-6-1407. Audit education and training.
53-6-1408. Applicability to auditor — scope.
53-6-1409. Auditor evaluation hearings — adoption of rules.
53-6-1410. Absorption of costs.

Parts 15 through 20 reserved

Part 21 — Children's Mental Health Services Pilot Project — Youth Outcome Improvement (Terminated)

Part 1
Medical Assistance — Medicaid

Part Cross-References

Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Appropriations for Medicaid expenditures, 17-7-163.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families — general provisions, Title 53, ch. 4, part 2.

53-6-101. Montana medicaid program — authorization of services. (1) There is Montana medicaid program established for the purpose of providing necessary medical service to eligible persons who have need for medical assistance. The Montana medicaid program is joint federal-state program administered under this chapter and in accordance with Title XIX o the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq. The department shall administer the Montan medicaid program.

(2) The department and the legislature shall consider the following funding principle when considering changes in medicaid policy that either increase or reduce services:

(a) protecting those persons who are most vulnerable and most in need, as defined by combination of economic, social, and medical circumstances;

(b) giving preference to the elimination or restoration of an entire medicaid program o service, rather than sacrifice or augment the quality of care for several programs or service through dilution of funding; and

(c) giving priority to services that employ the science of prevention to reduce disability and lness, services that treat life-threatening conditions, and services that support independent or ssisted living, including pain management, to reduce the need for acute inpatient or residential are.

(3) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program includes the following ervices:

(a) inpatient hospital services;

(b) outpatient hospital services;

(c) other laboratory and x-ray services, including minimum mammography examination s defined in 33-22-132;

(d) skilled nursing services in long-term care facilities;

(e) physicians' services;

(f) nurse specialist services;

(g) early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services for persons under 21 ears of age, in accordance with federal regulations and subsection (10)(b);

(h) ambulatory prenatal care for pregnant women during a presumptive eligibility period, s provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(47) and 42 U.S.C. 1396r-1;

(i) targeted case management services, as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1396n(g), for high-risk regnant women;

(j) services that are provided by physician assistants within the scope of their practice nd that are otherwise directly reimbursed as allowed under department rule to an existing rovider;

(k) health services provided under a physician's orders by a public health department;

(l) federally qualified health center services, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2);

(m) routine patient costs for qualified individuals enrolled in an approved clinical trial for ancer as provided in 33-22-153;

(n) for children 18 years of age and younger, habilitative services as defined in 53-4-1103;

(o) services provided by a person certified in accordance with 37-2-318 to provide services n accordance with the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.;

(p) fertility preservation services in accordance with 33-22-2103; and

(q) planned home births for women with a low risk of adverse birth outcomes, as stablished by the appropriate licensing board, that are attended by certified nurse-midwives icensed under Title 37, chapter 8, or direct-entry midwives licensed under Title 37, chapter 27. overage under this section includes prenatal care and postpartum care.

(4) Medical assistance provided by the Montana medicaid program may, as provided by lepartment rule, also include the following services:

(a) medical care or any other type of remedial care recognized under state law, furnished y licensed practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;

(b) home health care services[, including services provided by pediatric complex care ssistants licensed pursuant to 37-2-603];

(c) private-duty nursing services;

(d) dental services;

(e) physical therapy services;

(f) mental health center services administered and funded under a state mental health rogram authorized under Title 53, chapter 21, part 10;

(g) clinical social worker services;

(h) prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices;

(i) prescribed eyeglasses;

(j) other diagnostic, screening, preventive, rehabilitative, chiropractic, and osteopathic ervices;

(k) inpatient psychiatric hospital services for persons under 21 years of age;

(l) services of clinical professional counselors licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;

(m) services of a marriage and family therapist licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;

(n) hospice care, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(o);

(o) case management services, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(a) and 1396n(g), including argeted case management services for the mentally ill;

(p) services of psychologists licensed under Title 37, chapter 17;

(q) inpatient psychiatric services for persons under 21 years of age, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(h), in a residential treatment facility, as defined in 50-5-101, that is licensed in accordance with 50-5-201;

(r) services of behavioral health peer support specialists certified under Title 37, chapter 39, provided to adults 18 years of age and older with a diagnosis of a mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102; and

(s) any additional medical service or aid allowable under or provided by the federal Social Security Act.

(5) Services for persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance, as described in 53-6-131, may be more limited in amount, scope, and duration than services provided to others qualifying for assistance under the Montana medicaid program. The department is not required to provide all of the services listed in subsections (3) and (4) to persons qualifying for medicaid under the medically needy category of assistance.

(6) In accordance with federal law or waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department may implement limited medicaid benefits, to be known as basic medicaid, for adult recipients who are eligible because they are receiving cash assistance, as defined in 53-4-201, as the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child and for all adult recipients of medical assistance only who are covered under a group related to a program providing cash assistance, as defined in 53-4-201. Basic medicaid benefits consist of all mandatory services listed in subsection (3) but may include those optional services listed in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(s) that the department in its discretion specifies by rule. The department, in exercising its discretion, may consider the amount of funds appropriated by the legislature, whether approval has been received, as provided in 53-1-612, and whether the provision of a particular service is commonly covered by private health insurance plans. However, a recipient who is pregnant, meets the criteria for disability provided in Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 416, et seq., or is less than 21 years of age is entitled to full medicaid coverage.

(7) The department may implement, as provided for in Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, a program under medicaid for payment of medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for persons not otherwise eligible for medicaid.

(8) (a) The department may set rates for medical and other services provided to recipients of medicaid and may enter into contracts for delivery of services to individual recipients or groups of recipients.

(b) The department shall strive to close gaps in services provided to individuals suffering from mental illness and co-occurring disorders by doing the following:

(i) simplifying administrative rules, payment methods, and contracting processes for providing services to individuals of different ages, diagnoses, and treatments. Any adjustments to payments must be cost-neutral for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017.

(ii) publishing a report on an annual basis that describes the process that a mental health center or chemical dependency facility, as those terms are defined in 50-5-101, must utilize in order to receive payment from Montana medicaid for services provided to individuals of different ages, diagnoses, and treatments.

(9) The services provided under this part may be only those that are medically necessary and that are the most efficient and cost-effective.

(10) (a) The amount, scope, and duration of services provided under this part must be determined by the department in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended.

(b) The department shall, with reasonable promptness, provide access to all medically necessary services prescribed under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment benefit, including access to prescription drugs and durable medical equipment for which the department has not negotiated a rebate.

(11) Services, procedures, and items of an experimental or cosmetic nature may not be provided.

(12) (a) Prior to enacting changes to provider rates, medicaid waivers, or the medicaid state plan, the department shall report this information to the following committees:

(i) the children, families, health, and human services interim committee;
(ii) the legislative finance committee; and
(iii) the health and human services budget committee.

(b) In its report to the committees, the department shall provide an explanation for the roposed changes and an estimated budget impact to the department over the next 4 fiscal ears.

(13) If available funds are not sufficient to provide medical assistance for all eligible ersons, the department may set priorities to limit, reduce, or otherwise curtail the amount, cope, or duration of the medical services made available under the Montana medicaid program fter taking into consideration the funding principles set forth in subsection (2). *(Subsection 3)(o) terminates September 30, 2025—sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 2023; bracketed language in subsection 4)(b) terminates June 30, 2031—sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1512(part); amd. Sec. , Ch. 77, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 97, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1989; md. Sec. 1, Ch. 633, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 1991; amd. Secs. 3, 7, Ch. 460, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 634, L. 1991; amd. ec. 3, Ch. 663, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 764, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 590, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 14, Sp. L. ovember 1993; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 438, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 486, L. 1997; md. Sec. 36, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 54, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 576, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 02, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 519, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 530, L. 2005; amd. ec. 7, Ch. 97, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 399, L. 2017; md. Sec. 31, Ch. 41, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 491, . 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 291, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 628, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 713, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 8, h. 782, L. 2023.**

ompiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section — Code Commissioner Correction: Section 3, Ch. 291, L. 2023, inserted 3)(q) concerning planned home births; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Section 4, Ch. 628, L. 2023, in (4)(b) at end inserted "including services provided by pediatric complex care ssistants licensed pursuant to 37-2-603"; and in (12)(a) near middle after "department" deleted "of public health nd human services". Amendment effective July 1, 2023, and insertion in (4)(b) terminates June 30, 2031.

Section 27, Ch. 713, L. 2023, in (4)(l) before "professional counselors" inserted "clinical' and at end substituted Title 37, chapter 39" for "Title 37, chapter 23"; inserted (4)(m) concerning services of a marriage and family herapist; in (4)(r) near middle substituted "Title 37, chapter 39" for "Title 37, chapter 38"; and made minor changes n style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 8, Ch. 782, L. 2023, inserted (3)(p) concerning fertility preservation services; and made minor changes n style. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Because 53-6-155 defines "department" as "the department of public health and human services provided for n 2-15-2201" for all of Title 53, chapter 6, part 1, the Code Commissioner determined that the substitution of "the epartment" for "the department of public health and human services" in subsection (12)(a) (see Ch. 628 note) is a onsubstantive style change and did not terminate that change.

Extension of Termination Date: Section 1, Ch. 298, L. 2023, amended sec. 7, Ch. 412, L. 2019, by extending the ermination date imposed by Ch. 412 to September 30, 2025. Effective April 26, 2023.

Applicability: Section 12, Ch. 782, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to insurance policies, certificates, and ontracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024."

ross-References

Physician assistant defined, 37-20-401.

Montana Initiative for the Abatement of Mortality in Infants (MIAMI) Act, Title 50, ch. 19, part 3.

Community-based long-term care — Medicaid, Title 53, ch. 6, part 4.

53-6-102. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 711, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1512(part).**

53-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 31, Sp. L. November 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47 and 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 711, L. 1989.**

53-6-104. Freedom of doctors to treat recipients of medical assistance — freedom o select doctor. (1) The department of public health and human services shall provide for rofessional freedom of those licensed practitioners who provide medical assistance under this art and provide reasonable freedom of choice to recipients of medical aid to select the vendor or rovider of medical care, services, or prescribed drugs.

(2) This section may not be construed to prohibit the department from imposing conditions n the payment of provider services and the receipt of medical assistance, as provided for under 53-6-111 and 53-6-113 through 53-6-116.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1514; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 439, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

53-6-105. Discrimination prohibited. No discrimination shall be practiced or asserted against any applicant for or recipient of care and services under this part on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and the furnishing of care and services under this part to any applicant or recipient thereof shall not be delayed or denied on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 325, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1526.**

Cross-References

Individual dignity, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Illegal discrimination, Title 49, ch. 2.

53-6-106. Health care facility standards — definitions. (1) For purposes of 53-6-106 through 53-6-108, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(b) "Health care facility" means a health care facility as defined in 50-5-101 and includes a public health center as defined in 7-34-2102.

(2) The department may enter into agreements with appropriate federal agencies for the purpose of certifying health care facilities for the Montana medicaid program.

(3) The department may adopt rules as necessary to prescribe minimum standards for the maintenance and operation of health care facilities. Standards for the quality of care provided by those facilities receiving reimbursement under the Montana medicaid program must be consistent with those requirements imposed upon health care facilities by Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, and by the implementing regulations contained in Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as may be amended. The authority to prescribe standards and adopt rules under 53-6-106 through 53-6-108 is in addition to the authority granted to the department pursuant to Title 50, chapter 5.

(4) Standards adopted by the department may include but are not limited to requirements in the following areas: staffing, fire protection, health and safety, food and nutrition, environmental and sanitation, administration, admission policies, patient care planning, training, medication, health services, rehabilitation services, and social services and activities.

History: **En. Sec. 4(1) thru (4), Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 440, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 93, L. 1997.**

53-6-107. Sanctions — penalties. (1) The department may suspend, terminate, or refuse to renew an agreement with a health care facility that has failed to meet the requirements for certification for or participation in the Montana medicaid program under 53-6-106 through 53-6-108 or other applicable law. The department may also impose sanctions in the form of denial of medicaid payments for new admissions or other penalties or sanctions, as described in 53-6-111 or Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, and any implementing federal regulations.

(2) The department may impose a civil monetary penalty, with interest not to exceed 12% a year, for each day that a facility is substantially out of compliance with standards or participation requirements provided by applicable state or federal laws, regulations, or rules, including but not limited to standards adopted by the department under the authority of Title 50, chapter 5, or 53-6-106 through 53-6-108. Penalties must be collected by the department and may be applied to the protection of the health and property of residents of health care facilities that the department finds deficient, including but not limited to payment for the costs of relocation of residents to other facilities, operation of a facility pending correction of deficiencies or closure, and reimbursement of residents for personal funds lost.

(3) The department may appoint temporary management personnel to oversee the operation of the facility and to ensure the health and safety of the facility's residents if there is a need for temporary management because:

(a) an orderly closure of the facility is necessary; or

(b) improvements are being made to bring the facility into compliance with applicable standards.

(4) The department shall, in the case of an emergency, close the facility or transfer residents in the facility to other facilities, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 4(5) thru (8), Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 441, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 346, L. 2001.**

53-6-108. Rules governing sanctions or remedies. The department shall adopt rules governing the application of sanctions or remedies imposed under 53-6-107, the amounts of any fines, and the severity of each of these sanctions or remedies. The rules must be designed for the imposition of incrementally more severe fines for repeated or uncorrected deficiencies. The civil penalty for violation of the applicable standards imposed by state or federal laws, regulations, or rules may not exceed $10,000 for each day that the deficiency remains uncorrected. A health care facility aggrieved by an action of the department may request a hearing pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

History: En. Sec. 4(9), Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 442, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 346, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Medicaid rules, 53-6-113.

53-6-109. Consistent regulation of long-term care facilities — rulemaking authority — timeframes. (1) In order to provide more consistent regulation of long-term care facilities that provide intermediate and skilled nursing care statewide, the department shall adopt rules in consultation with long-term care provider groups, the long-term care ombudsman, as described in 52-3-603, and appropriate consumer groups that:

(a) define the following terms used in the survey and certification process for long-term care facilities that provide intermediate and skilled nursing care:

(i) actual harm;

(ii) potential for more than minimal harm;

(iii) avoidable;

(iv) unavoidable; and

(v) immediate jeopardy;

(b) define an informal dispute resolution process to provide nursing homes with an opportunity to respond to survey findings and deficiency citations that are believed to be made in error. The rules must be consistent with the purpose of informal dispute resolution that is intended to give the provider an opportunity to demonstrate that a deficiency has been applied in error or is a misjudgment of true facts. The objective of the process is to avoid the imposition of unnecessary sanctions and to diminish the need for formal administrative hearings with the state, as provided for in 53-6-108, or the federal government agencies that are responsible for the enforcement of remedies. The process must provide for an objective review of the raised issues by an individual who is independent of the survey process and who can evaluate the legal sufficiency of the findings of the surveyors. The department shall provide a written determination of the outcome of the informal dispute resolution process within 60 days from the date that the dispute is submitted to the individual conducting the dispute resolution process. As used in this subsection (1)(b), "submitted" means that the provider and any other party to the dispute have provided their final position statements or arguments to the individual conducting the dispute resolution process, along with any supporting documents, within the time established by that individual.

(c) define standards for survey determinations in which the surveyors question the efficacy of orders for drugs and treatments made by a resident's attending physician. The standards must recognize that a written physician's order provides evidence of medical necessity and the appropriateness of the drugs and treatments ordered, unless the survey agency alleges substandard practice by the physician. The standards must provide for the reporting of any substandard practice of a physician to the board of medical examiners by the surveyors. The standards must outline a facility's responsibilities in monitoring drugs and treatments ordered for residents and for consulting with the attending physician as appropriate.

(2) The department shall inform long-term care facilities of the results of any survey, certification survey, complaint survey, or postsurvey revisit within 10 working days of the last date of the survey on the form provided by the centers for medicare and medicaid services for that purpose.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 346, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 2005.

53-6-110. Report and recommendations on medicaid funding. (1) As a part of the information required in 17-7-111, the department of public health and human services shall submit a report concerning medicaid funding for the next biennium. This report must include at least the following elements:

(a) analysis of past and present funding levels for the various categories and types of health services eligible for medicaid reimbursement;

(b) projected increased medicaid funding needs for the next biennium. These projections must identify the effects of projected population growth and demographic patterns on at least the following elements:

(i) trends in unit costs for services, including inflation;

(ii) trends in use of services;

(iii) trends in medicaid recipient levels; and

(iv) the effects of new and projected long-term care facilities and services for which a need has been identified in the state long-term care facilities plan.

(2) As an integral part of the report, the department of public health and human services shall present a recommendation of funding levels for the medicaid program. The recommendation need not be consistent with the state health care facilities plan.

(3) In making its appropriations for medicaid funding, the legislature shall specify the portions of medicaid funding anticipated to be allocated to specific categories and types of health care services.

(4) Beginning November 15 of each year through June 15 of the following year, the department of public health and human services shall provide to the legislative fiscal analyst monthly reports containing estimates of the cost for medicaid services and a budget status report for all department programs. The department shall also provide a fiscal yearend summary of medicaid costs and the department budget status report prior to the first legislative finance committee meeting following the end of the fiscal year. The reports must be presented in a format mutually agreed to by the legislative fiscal analyst and the department. The department shall provide the yearend summaries to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 329, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 349, L. 1993; (5)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 443, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 238, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 93, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 477, L. 2021.**

53-6-111. Department charged with administration and supervision of medical assistance program — overpayment recovery — sanctions for fraudulent and abusive activities — adoption of rules. (1) (a) The department may administer and supervise a vendor payment program of medical assistance under the powers, duties, and functions provided in Title 53, chapter 2, and this chapter and that is in compliance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

(b) When submitting a claim for reimbursement, a provider or the provider's agent may reasonably rely on written instructions and advice provided by the department pursuant to 53-6-160 and 53-6-1407.

(2) (a) The department is entitled to collect from a provider, and a provider is liable to the department for:

(i) the amount of a payment under this part to which the provider was not entitled if the incorrect payment was the result of the provider's error, except as provided in subsection (3), or if the provider's interpretation of the pertinent rule or billing code is not reasonable; and

(ii) the portion of any interim rate payment that exceeds the rate determined retrospectively by the department for the rate period.

(b) If the decision regarding the amount of a payment to which the provider was not entitled depends on an interpretation of a pertinent rule or billing code, the provider has the burden of proving that its interpretation is reasonable and consistent with:

(i) the information given to providers in any applicable Montana medicaid provider rules or manual, including but not limited to the Coding Resources identified in or incorporated by reference in any applicable Montana medicaid provider rule or manual; and

(ii) any written interpretations by the department that were in existence at the time payment was made to the provider.

(c) In addition to the amount of overpayment recoverable under subsection (2)(a), the department is entitled to interest on the amount of the overpayment at the rate specified in 31-1-106 from the date 30 days after the date of mailing of notice of the overpayment by the department to the provider, except that interest accrues from the date of the incorrect payment when the payment was obtained by fraud or abuse.

(d) The department may collect any amount described in subsection (2)(a) by:

(i) withholding current payments to offset the amount due;

(ii) applying methods and using a schedule mutually agreeable to the department and the provider; or

(iii) any other legal means.

(e) The department may suspend payments to a provider for disputed items pending resolution of a dispute only as allowed under 42 CFR 455.23 as of July 1, 2017.

(f) The fact that a provider may have ceased providing services or items under the medical assistance program, may no longer be in business, or may no longer operate a facility, practice, or business does not excuse repayment under this subsection (2).

(3) In an overpayment determination involving medically necessary services that were provided in accordance with applicable medicaid requirements but were improperly billed, a provider must be allowed to submit a new claim or claim adjustment for the services and the claim or adjustment must be considered to be timely filed if submitted within 60 days of notice of the overpayment determination.

(4) The department shall adopt rules establishing a system of sanctions applicable to providers who engage in fraud and abuse. Subject to the definitions in 53-6-155, the department rules must include but are not limited to specifications regarding the activities and conduct that constitute fraud and abuse.

(5) Subject to subsections (6) and (8), the sanctions imposed under rules adopted by the department under subsection (4) may include but are not limited to:

(a) required courses of education in the rules governing the medicaid program;

(b) suspension of participation in the program for a specified period of time;

(c) permanent termination of participation in the medical assistance program; and

(d) imposition of civil monetary penalties imposed under rules that specify the amount of penalties applicable to a specific activity, act, or omission involving intentional or knowing violation of specified standards.

(6) In all cases in which the department may recover medicaid payments or impose a sanction, a provider is entitled to a hearing under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. The department may not recover an overpayment until all formal hearings and appeals are exhausted except in cases in which the department is investigating a credible allegation that the overpayment was the result of fraud.

(7) (a) If the department or an auditor identifies an underpayment to a provider, the department shall:

(i) notify the provider in writing; and

(ii) within 30 days of identification of the underpayment, pay the provider the additional amount to which the provider is entitled.

(b) If payment depends upon the provider's submission of a new claim or claim adjustment, a new claim or claim adjustment is timely filed if submitted within 60 days of notice of the underpayment.

(8) The remedies provided by this section are separate and cumulative to any other administrative, civil, or criminal remedies available under state or federal law, regulation, rule, or policy.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47, 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 444, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 453, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

False claims to public agencies, 45-7-210.

Community-based long-term care facilities — powers and duties of Department, 53-6-402.

53-6-112. Department to print and distribute copies of part and certain forms. The department shall have printed and shall distribute copies of this part to all local offices of public assistance and shall prescribe the form of and print and supply to the local offices of public assistance blanks of applications, reports, and other forms that may be necessary in relation to medical assistance.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47 and 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(4); amd. Sec. 445, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-6-113. Department to adopt rules. (1) The department shall adopt appropriate rules necessary for the administration of the Montana medicaid program as provided for in this part and that may be required by federal laws and regulations governing state participation in medicaid under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as amended.

(2) The department shall adopt rules that are necessary to further define for the purposes of this part the services provided under 53-6-101 and to provide that services being used are medically necessary and that the services are the most efficient and cost-effective available. The rules may establish the amount, scope, and duration of services provided under the Montana medicaid program, including the items and components constituting the services.

(3) The department shall establish by rule the rates for reimbursement of services provided under this part. The department may in its discretion set rates of reimbursement that it determines necessary for the purposes of the program. In establishing rates of reimbursement, the department may consider but is not limited to considering:

(a) the availability of appropriated funds;

(b) the actual cost of services;

(c) the quality of services;

(d) the professional knowledge and skills necessary for the delivery of services; and

(e) the availability of services.

(4) The department shall specify by rule those professionals who may:

(a) deliver or direct the delivery of particular services; and

(b) deliver services by means of telehealth in accordance with 53-6-122.

(5) The department may provide by rule for payment by a recipient of a portion of the reimbursements established by the department for services provided under this part.

(6) (a) The department may adopt rules consistent with this part to govern eligibility for the Montana medicaid program, including the medicaid program provided for in 53-6-195. Rules may include but are not limited to financial standards and criteria for income and resources, treatment of resources, nonfinancial criteria, family responsibilities, residency, application, termination, definition of terms, confidentiality of applicant and recipient information, and cooperation with the state agency administering the child support enforcement program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 651, et seq.

(b) The department may not apply financial criteria below $15,000 for resources other than income in determining the eligibility of a child under 19 years of age for poverty level-related children's medicaid coverage groups, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(l)(1)(B) through (l)(1)(D).

(c) The department may not apply financial criteria below $15,000 for an individual and $30,000 for a couple for resources other than income in determining the eligibility of individuals for the medicaid program for workers with disabilities provided for in 53-6-195.

(d) (i) The department may not adopt rules or policies requiring a person who is eligible for medicaid pursuant to 53-6-131(1)(e)(ii)(A) to:

(A) make only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid under that subsection; or

(B) only incur medical expenses as a means of qualifying for medicaid under that subsection.

(ii) If a person eligible for medicaid under 53-6-131(1)(e)(ii)(A) is participating in a home and community-based services waiver, the department shall count as an eligible medical expense any medical service or item that a nonwaiver medicaid member is allowed to count as a medical expense to qualify for medicaid under 53-6-131(1)(e)(ii)(A).

(iii) Nothing in this subsection (6)(d) may be construed as preventing a person from making only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid pursuant to 53-6-131(1)(e)(ii)(A).

(7) The department may adopt rules limiting eligibility based on criteria more restrictive than that provided in 53-6-131 if required by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.

1396, et seq., as may be amended, or if funds appropriated are not sufficient to provide medical care for all eligible persons.

(8) The department may adopt rules necessary for the administration of medicaid managed care systems. Rules to be adopted may include but are not limited to rules concerning:

(a) participation in managed care;

(b) selection and qualifications for providers of managed care; and

(c) standards for the provision of managed care.

(9) Subject to subsection (6), the department shall establish by rule income limits for eligibility for extended medical assistance of persons receiving section 1931 medicaid benefits, as defined in 53-4-602, who lose eligibility because of increased income to the assistance unit, as that term is defined in the rules of the department, as provided in 53-6-134, and shall also establish by rule the length of time for which extended medical assistance will be provided. The department, in exercising its discretion to set income limits and duration of assistance, may consider the amount of funds appropriated by the legislature.

(10) Unless required by federal law or regulation, the department may not adopt rules that exclude a child from medicaid services or require prior authorization for a child to access medicaid services if the child would be eligible for or able to access the services without prior authorization if the child was not in foster care.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47 and 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(6); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 310, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 460, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 446, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 363, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 497, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Health care facility — rules governing sanctions or remedies, 53-6-108.

53-6-114. Rules of department binding. All rules of the department made under this part are binding upon the local offices of public assistance.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47 and 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(5); amd. Sec. 447, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-6-115. Contracts with other agencies. The department of public health and human services may by suitable rules provide for contracting with any state or private agency for processing and payment of claims under the program of medical assistance, and the department may contract with one or more private or state agencies to provide any or all of the enumerated medical services.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1515; amd. Sec. 448, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-6-116. Medicaid managed care — capitated health care. (1) The department of public health and human services, in its discretion, may develop managed care and capitated health care systems for medicaid recipients.

(2) The department may contract with one or more persons for the management of comprehensive physical health services and the management of comprehensive mental health services for medicaid recipients. The department may contract for the provision of these services by means of a fixed monetary or capitated amount for each recipient.

(3) A managed care system is a program organized to serve the medical needs of medicaid recipients in an efficient and cost-effective manner by managing the receipt of medical services for a geographical or otherwise defined population of recipients through appropriate health care professionals.

(4) The provision of medicaid services through managed care and capitated health care systems is not subject to the limitations provided in 53-6-104. The managed care or capitated health care system that is provided to a defined population of recipients may be based on one or more of the medical assistance services provided for in 53-6-101.

(5) The proposed systems, referred to in subsection (1), must be submitted to the legislative finance committee. The legislative finance committee shall review the proposed systems at its next regularly scheduled meeting and shall provide any comments concerning the proposed

systems to the department. The department shall provide a copy of any reports made to the legislative finance committee concerning the proposed systems to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(6) A managed care or capitated health care system, except for a primary care case management service, that requires for implementation a waiver from the centers for medicare and medicaid is subject to the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, part 7.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 449, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 351, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

53-6-117. Participation requirements. (1) The department of public health and human services may require medicaid recipients to participate in a managed care system.

(2) Recipients who are required by the department to participate in a managed care system shall participate as required in order to remain eligible for medicaid.

(3) The department may require the participation of medicaid recipients in managed care systems based upon geographical, financial, social, medical, and other factors as the department may determine are relevant to the development and efficient management of managed care systems.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 460, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 450, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-6-118 through 53-6-120 reserved.

53-6-121. Local administration of medical assistance. The local offices of public assistance are charged with the local administration and supervision of medical assistance, including medicaid, subject to the powers, duties, rules, and overall supervision of the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Secs. 47 and 48, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1511(2); amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

53-6-122. Telehealth services — requirements — limitations. (1) Providers enrolled in the medicaid program may provide medically necessary services by means of telehealth if the service:

(a) is clinically appropriate for delivery by telehealth as specified by the department by rule or policy;

(b) comports with the guidelines of the applicable medicaid provider manual; and

(c) is not specifically required in the applicable provider manual to be provided in a face-to-face manner.

(2) A provider shall:

(a) ensure an enrollee receiving telehealth services has the same rights to confidentiality and security as provided for traditional office visits;

(b) follow consent and patient information protocols consistent with the protocols followed for in-person visits; and

(c) comply with recordkeeping requirements established by the department by rule.

(3) Telehealth services:

(a) may be provided using secure portal messaging, secure instant messaging, telephone communication, or audiovisual communication;

(b) may not be provided in a setting or manner not otherwise authorized by law; and

(c) must be reimbursed at the same rate of payment as services delivered in person.

(4) An enrollee's residence is not reimbursable as an enrolled originating site provider.

(5) The department shall adopt rules for the provision of telehealth services, including but not limited to:

(a) billing procedures for enrolled providers;

(b) the services considered clinically appropriate for telehealth purposes;

(c) recordkeeping requirements for providers, including originating site providers; and

(d) other requirements for originating site providers, including allowable provider types, reimbursement rates, and requirements for the secure technology to be used at originating sites.

(6) Nothing in this section may be construed as altering the scope of practice of any enrolled provider delivering services by means of telehealth.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 497, L. 2021.

53-6-123 reserved.

53-6-124. Definitions. As used in 53-6-125, 53-6-127, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Conversion factor" means the dollar value that is multiplied by the appropriate relative value unit to calculate a price for a service provided by a physician.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(3) "Medicaid" means the Montana medical assistance program established under Title 53, chapter 6.

(4) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.

(5) "Policy adjuster" means a factor by which the fee determined under 53-6-125 is multiplied to increase the fee paid by medicaid for certain categories of services.

(6) "Relative value unit" means a numerical value assigned in the resource-based relative value scale to each procedure code used to bill for services provided by a physician.

(7) "Resource-based relative value scale" means the medicare resource-based relative value scale contained in the physician's medicare fee schedule adopted by the centers for medicare and medicaid services of the U.S. department of health and human services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 2011.

53-6-125. Physician services reimbursement. (1) The fee for a covered service provided by a physician under the medicaid program is determined by multiplying the conversion factor times the relative value unit for that service times any applicable policy adjusters.

(2) (a) For fiscal years 2018 and 2019, the conversion factor must be increased, at a minimum, by the same numerical inflation factor calculated in accordance with 20-9-326.

(b) For each subsequent fiscal year, the conversion factor must be increased, at a minimum, by the same percentage increase as the consumer price index for medical care for the previous year, as calculated by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 364, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 393, L. 2019.

53-6-126. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 2007.

53-6-127. Rulemaking — policy adjusters. The department may by rule adopt policy adjusters for certain categories of service. A policy adjuster may not be less than 1.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 414, L. 2007.

53-6-128 through 53-6-130 reserved.

53-6-131. *(Temporary)* **Eligibility requirements.** (1) Medical assistance under the Montana medicaid program may be granted to a U.S. citizen or a qualified alien as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1641 who is determined by the department of public health and human services to be a Montana resident and, in its discretion, to be eligible as follows:

(a) The person receives or is considered to be receiving supplemental security income benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1381, et seq., and does not have income or resources in excess of the applicable medical assistance limits.

(b) The person would be eligible for assistance under the program described in subsection (1)(a) if that person were to apply for that assistance.

(c) The person is in a medical facility that is a medicaid provider and, but for residence in the facility, the person would be receiving assistance under the program in subsection (1)(a).

(d) The person is:

(i) under 21 years of age and in foster care under the supervision of the state or was in foster care under the supervision of the state and has been adopted as a child with special needs; or

(ii) under 18 years of age and is in a guardianship subsidized by the department pursuant to 41-3-444.

(e) The person meets the nonfinancial criteria of the categories in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) and:

(i) the person's income does not exceed the income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance and the person's resources are within the resource standards of the federal supplemental security income program; or

(ii) the person, while having income greater than the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance:

(A) has an adjusted income level, after incurring medical expenses, that does not exceed the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance or, alternatively, has paid in cash to the department the amount by which the person's income exceeds the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance; and

(B) (I) in the case of a person who meets the nonfinancial criteria for medical assistance because the person is aged, blind, or disabled, has resources that do not exceed the resource standards of the federal supplemental security income program; or

(II) in the case of a person who meets the nonfinancial criteria for medical assistance because the person is pregnant, is an infant or child, or is the caretaker of an infant or child, has resources that do not exceed the resource standards adopted by the department.

(f) The person is a qualified pregnant woman or a child as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(n).

(g) The person is under 19 years of age and lives with a family having a combined income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. The department may establish lower income levels to the extent necessary to maximize federal matching funds provided for in 53-4-1104.

(2) The department shall require an applicant to provide proof of the applicant's residency in this state.

(3) (a) The department may establish income and resource limitations. Limitations of income and resources must be within the amounts permitted by federal law for the medicaid program. Any otherwise applicable eligibility resource test prescribed by the department does not apply to enrollees in the healthy Montana kids plan provided for in 53-4-1104.

(b) The department may not count as a resource an individual retirement account that was established by a person participating in the medicaid program for workers with disabilities provided for in 53-6-195 if:

(i) the person is no longer eligible for coverage under 53-6-195; and

(ii) the individual retirement account was established during the time the person was receiving benefits through the medicaid program for workers with disabilities.

(4) (a) The department may not require a person who is eligible for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A) to:

(i) make only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid under that subsection; or

(ii) only incur medical expenses as a means of qualifying for medicaid under that subsection.

(b) If a person eligible for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A) is participating in a home and community-based services waiver, the department shall count as an eligible medical expense any medical service or item that a nonwaiver medicaid applicant is allowed to count as a medical expense to qualify for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A).

(c) Nothing in this subsection (4) may be construed as preventing a person from making only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid pursuant to subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A).

(5) The Montana medicaid program shall pay, as required by federal law, the premiums necessary for medicaid-eligible persons participating in the medicare program and may, within the discretion of the department, pay all or a portion of the medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for a qualified medicare-eligible person or for a qualified disabled and working individual, as defined in section 6408(d)(2) of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, Public Law 101-239, who:

(a) has income that does not exceed income standards as may be required by the Social Security Act; and

(b) has resources that do not exceed standards that the department determines reasonable for purposes of the program.

(6) The department may pay a medicaid-eligible person's expenses for premiums, coinsurance, and similar costs for health insurance or other available health coverage, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(1).

(7) In accordance with waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department of public health and human services

may grant eligibility for basic medicaid benefits as described in 53-6-101 to an individual receiving section 1931 medicaid benefits, as defined in 53-4-602, as the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child under the section 1931 medicaid program. A recipient who is pregnant, meets the criteria for disability provided in Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 416, et seq., or is less than 21 years of age is entitled to full medicaid coverage, as provided in 53-6-101.

(8) The department, under the Montana medicaid program, may provide, if a waiver is not available from the federal government, medicaid and other assistance mandated by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, and not specifically listed in this part to categories of persons that may be designated by the act for receipt of assistance.

(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, medical assistance must be provided to infants and pregnant women whose family income does not exceed income standards adopted by the department that comply with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1396a(l)(2)(A)(i) and whose family resources do not exceed standards that the department determines reasonable for purposes of the program.

(10) Subject to appropriations, the department may cooperate with and make grants to a nonprofit corporation that uses donated funds to provide basic preventive and primary health care medical benefits to children whose families are ineligible for the Montana medicaid program and who are ineligible for any other health care coverage, are under 19 years of age, and are enrolled in school if of school age.

(11) A person described in subsection (9) must be provided continuous eligibility for medical assistance, as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(5) through (e)(7).

(12) Full medical assistance under the Montana medicaid program may be granted to an individual during the period in which the individual requires treatment of breast or cervical cancer, or both, or of a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix, if the individual:

(a) has been screened for breast and cervical cancer under the Montana breast and cervical health program funded by the centers for disease control and prevention program established under Title XV of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300k, or in accordance with federal requirements;

(b) needs treatment for breast or cervical cancer, or both, or a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix;

(c) is not otherwise covered under creditable coverage, as provided by federal law or regulation;

(d) is not eligible for medical assistance under any mandatory categorically needy eligibility group; and

(e) has not attained 65 years of age.

(13) Subject to the limitation in 53-6-195, the department shall provide medicaid coverage to workers with disabilities as provided in 53-6-195 and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII) and (r)(2) and 42 U.S.C. 1396o.

(14) Nothing in subsection (1) may be construed as allowing the department to deny enrollment for a reason that is impermissible under federal law or regulation. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

53-6-131. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Eligibility requirements.** (1) Medical assistance under the Montana medicaid program may be granted to a person who is determined by the department of public health and human services, in its discretion, to be eligible as follows:

(a) The person receives or is considered to be receiving supplemental security income benefits under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1381, et seq., and does not have income or resources in excess of the applicable medical assistance limits.

(b) The person would be eligible for assistance under the program described in subsection (1)(a) if that person were to apply for that assistance.

(c) The person is in a medical facility that is a medicaid provider and, but for residence in the facility, the person would be receiving assistance under the program in subsection (1)(a).

(d) The person is:

(i) under 21 years of age and in foster care under the supervision of the state or was in foster care under the supervision of the state and has been adopted as a child with special needs; or

(ii) under 18 years of age and is in a guardianship subsidized by the department pursuant to 41-3-444.

(e) The person meets the nonfinancial criteria of the categories in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) and:

(i) the person's income does not exceed the income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance and the person's resources are within the resource standards of the federal supplemental security income program; or

(ii) the person, while having income greater than the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance:

(A) has an adjusted income level, after incurring medical expenses, that does not exceed the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance or, alternatively, has paid in cash to the department the amount by which the person's income exceeds the medically needy income level specified for federally aided categories of assistance; and

(B) (I) in the case of a person who meets the nonfinancial criteria for medical assistance because the person is aged, blind, or disabled, has resources that do not exceed the resource standards of the federal supplemental security income program; or

(II) in the case of a person who meets the nonfinancial criteria for medical assistance because the person is pregnant, is an infant or child, or is the caretaker of an infant or child, has resources that do not exceed the resource standards adopted by the department.

(f) The person is a qualified pregnant woman or a child as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(n).

(g) The person is under 19 years of age and lives with a family having a combined income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. The department may establish lower income levels to the extent necessary to maximize federal matching funds provided for in 53-4-1104.

(2) (a) The department may establish income and resource limitations. Limitations of income and resources must be within the amounts permitted by federal law for the medicaid program. Any otherwise applicable eligibility resource test prescribed by the department does not apply to enrollees in the healthy Montana kids plan provided for in 53-4-1104.

(b) The department may not count as a resource an individual retirement account that was established by a person participating in the medicaid program for workers with disabilities provided for in 53-6-195 if:

(i) the person is no longer eligible for coverage under 53-6-195; and

(ii) the individual retirement account was established during the time the person was receiving benefits through the medicaid program for workers with disabilities.

(3) The Montana medicaid program shall pay, as required by federal law, the premiums necessary for medicaid-eligible persons participating in the medicare program and may, within the discretion of the department, pay all or a portion of the medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance for a qualified medicare-eligible person or for a qualified disabled and working individual, as defined in section 6408(d)(2) of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, Public Law 101-239, who:

(a) has income that does not exceed income standards as may be required by the Social Security Act; and

(b) has resources that do not exceed standards that the department determines reasonable for purposes of the program.

(4) (a) The department may not require a person who is eligible for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A) to:

(i) make only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid under that subsection; or

(ii) only incur medical expenses as a means of qualifying for medicaid under that subsection.

(b) If a person eligible for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A) is participating in a home and community-based services waiver, the department shall count as an eligible medical expense any medical service or item that a nonwaiver medicaid applicant is allowed to count as a medical expense to qualify for medicaid under subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A).

(c) Nothing in this subsection (4) may be construed as preventing a person from making only a cash payment to qualify for medicaid pursuant to subsection (1)(e)(ii)(A).

(5) The department may pay a medicaid-eligible person's expenses for premiums, coinsurance, and similar costs for health insurance or other available health coverage, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)(1).

(6) In accordance with waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department of public health and human services may grant eligibility for basic medicaid benefits as described in 53-6-101 to an individual receiving section 1931 medicaid benefits, as defined in 53-4-602, as the specified caretaker relative of a dependent child under the section 1931 medicaid program. A recipient who is pregnant, meets the criteria for disability provided in Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 416, et seq., or is less than 21 years of age is entitled to full medicaid coverage, as provided in 53-6-101.

(7) The department, under the Montana medicaid program, may provide, if a waiver is not available from the federal government, medicaid and other assistance mandated by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, and not specifically listed in this part to categories of persons that may be designated by the act for receipt of assistance.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, medical assistance must be provided to infants and pregnant women whose family income does not exceed income standards adopted by the department that comply with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1396a(l)(2)(A)(i) and whose family resources do not exceed standards that the department determines reasonable for purposes of the program.

(9) Subject to appropriations, the department may cooperate with and make grants to a nonprofit corporation that uses donated funds to provide basic preventive and primary health care medical benefits to children whose families are ineligible for the Montana medicaid program and who are ineligible for any other health care coverage, are under 19 years of age, and are enrolled in school if of school age.

(10) A person described in subsection (8) must be provided continuous eligibility for medical assistance, as authorized in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(5) through (e)(7).

(11) Full medical assistance under the Montana medicaid program may be granted to an individual during the period in which the individual requires treatment of breast or cervical cancer, or both, or of a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix, if the individual:

(a) has been screened for breast and cervical cancer under the Montana breast and cervical health program funded by the centers for disease control and prevention program established under Title XV of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300k, or in accordance with federal requirements;

(b) needs treatment for breast or cervical cancer, or both, or a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix;

(c) is not otherwise covered under creditable coverage, as provided by federal law or regulation;

(d) is not eligible for medical assistance under any mandatory categorically needy eligibility group; and

(e) has not attained 65 years of age.

(12) Subject to the limitation in 53-6-195, the department shall provide medicaid coverage to workers with disabilities as provided in 53-6-195 and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII) and (r)(2) and 42 U.S.C. 1396o.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1516; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 649, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 388, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 634, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 14, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 451, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, I.M. No. 155, approved Nov. 4, 2008; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 452, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 415, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 2021.**

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

Cross-References

Montana Initiative for the Abatement of Mortality in Infants (MIAMI) Act, Title 50, ch. 19, part 3.

53-6-132. Application for assistance — exception. (1) Subject to subsection (2), application for assistance under this part may be made in any local office of public assistance. The application must be presented in the manner and on the form prescribed by the department. All individuals wishing to apply must have the opportunity to do so.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the department may designate an entity other than the local office of public assistance to determine eligibility for medicaid managed care services.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 325, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1518; amd. Sec. 452, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 39, 42, Ch. 465, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 571, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Fraudulently obtaining public assistance — theft, 53-2-107.

53-6-133. Eligibility determination. (1) The local office of public assistance shall promptly determine the eligibility of each applicant under this part in accordance with the rules of the department. Each applicant must be informed of the right to a fair hearing and of the confidential nature of the information given. The department, through the local office of public assistance, shall, after the hearing, determine whether or not the applicant is eligible for assistance under this part, and aid must be furnished promptly to eligible persons. Each applicant must receive written notice of the decision concerning the applicant's application, and the right of appeal is secured to the applicant under the procedures of 53-2-606.

(2) The local office of public assistance and the department may accept the federal social security administration's determination of eligibility for supplemental security income, Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as qualifying the eligible individuals to receive medical assistance under this part.

(3) (a) The department shall verify the information provided on an application for medicaid under part 13 or under this part, using data sources allowed under federal law or regulation and Montana department of revenue information as required under subsection (3)(b), to confirm an applicant's eligibility for the program before authorizing payment of benefits under the program.

(b) The department shall request income tax and wage income from the department of revenue as allowed under 15-30-2618 and 15-31-511 to verify the income information provided by applicants who may be eligible for coverage pursuant to 53-6-1304.

(4) The department shall establish by rule the documents to be used to verify that an applicant is a Montana resident. *(Subsections (3) and (4) terminate June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1520; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 453, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 415, L. 2019.**

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

53-6-134. Extension of eligibility for medical assistance to persons terminated from section 1931 medicaid program. (1) In providing for the extension of eligibility for medical assistance under subsection (2), the department may provide for health insurance or other health coverage in accordance with subsections 1925(a)(4)(B) and 1925(b)(4)(C) of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396r-6(a)(4)(B) and 42 U.S.C. 1396r-6(b)(4)(C), and may exercise the other options contained in section 1925 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396r-6, regarding the provision of medical assistance.

(2) In accordance with waivers of federal law that are granted by the secretary of the U.S. department of health and human services, the department of public health and human services may provide extended eligibility for medical assistance for a period of time established by the department by rule for persons receiving section 1931 medicaid benefits, as defined in 53-4-602, who lose eligibility because of increased earned or unearned income to the assistance unit, as that term is defined in the rules of the department, provided that the family's income does not

exceed a percentage of the federal poverty level established by the department by rule. The department, in exercising its discretion to establish income standards and duration of extended medical assistance by rule, may consider the amount of funds appropriated by the legislature.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 491, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 454, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 486, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 465, L. 2001.**

53-6-135. Prohibited reimbursement or coverage. Pursuant to 50-4-1004, the Montana medicaid program may not reimburse or provide coverage for any medical treatment prohibited in 50-4-1004(1)(a) or (1)(b).

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 306, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

53-6-136 through 53-6-138 reserved.

53-6-139. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 616, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 616, L. 1989.**

53-6-140. Account not to be treated as asset for purposes of eligibility. If allowed by federal law, the principal and all interest or other income contained within an account established in accordance with Title 15, chapter 61, may not be treated as an asset of the employee or account holder or as an asset of a dependent of the employee or account holder for the purposes of eligibility for the Montana medicaid program.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 295, L. 1995.**

53-6-141. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 711, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 261, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1517; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 310, L. 1989.**

53-6-142. Periodic review of assistance. All medical assistance cases approved under this part must be reviewed as often as required under the rules of the department of public health and human services.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 325, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1521; amd. Sec. 455, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

53-6-143. Medical assistance liens and recoveries. (1) Except as provided in this section, the department may not impose a lien upon the property of an applicant for or recipient of medical assistance.

(2) A lien for recovery of medical assistance paid or to be paid under this chapter may be imposed against the real or personal property of a medicaid applicant or recipient prior to the applicant's or recipient's death only:

(a) pursuant to a judgment of a court for recovery of medical assistance paid on behalf of the recipient;

(b) on a third-party recovery as provided in 53-2-612;

(c) as provided in 53-6-171 through 53-6-188; or

(d) to the extent that the recipient has received medical assistance based upon resources not disregarded pursuant to part 8 of this chapter.

(3) The department may recover medical assistance correctly paid on behalf of a recipient only as provided in 53-2-612, 53-6-167 through 53-6-169, or 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 or as provided in a written agreement between the department and the recipient or the recipient's representative pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1382b(b).

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided by 53-6-144, 53-6-165 through 53-6-169, 53-6-171 through 53-6-189, and this section, the department may pursue recovery under any section or combination of sections as may be applicable in a particular case. However, the department may not recover pursuant to 53-6-167 through 53-6-169 or 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 more than the total amount of recoverable medical assistance paid on behalf of a recipient, plus any applicable costs, interest, or other charges specifically allowed by law. The fact that the department has or may have a lien on particular property does not preclude the department from pursuing recovery under another section against other assets of the recipient or assets of another person as provided in 53-6-144, 53-6-165 through 53-6-169, 53-6-171 through 53-6-189, and this section.

(5) Except as provided in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b), the department may not impose a lien under this section upon a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1, or upon the assets of a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1.

(a) The department may impose a lien under this section upon a self-sufficiency trust or upon the assets of a self-sufficiency trust established pursuant to Title 53, chapter 18, part 1, if the department is required by federal law to recover or collect from the trust or its assets as a condition of receiving federal financial participation for the medicaid program.

(b) To the extent otherwise permitted by this section, the department is not precluded from asserting a claim or imposing a lien upon real or personal property prior to transfer of the property to the trust. If the department imposes a lien upon property prior to transfer to a self-sufficiency trust, any transfer of the property to the trust is subject to the lien.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 379, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1524; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 482, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 456, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 195, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 262, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.
Claims against estate, Title 72, ch. 3, part 8.

53-6-144. Relative's responsibility. Except as otherwise provided in 53-6-167 through 53-6-169, 53-6-171 through 53-6-189, and the provisions of other parts of this title, the only relatives that may be held responsible for payment of medical assistance under the program are the husband or wife of the individual, the parents of children under 18 years of age, and the parents of blind or disabled persons over 18 years of age.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 325, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1525; amd. Sec. 4 Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Liability for acts or debts of spouse, 40-2-106.
When parent liable for necessaries supplied to child, 40-6-215.

53-6-145. Agencies to adopt rules governing personal assistant services. (1) Recognizing the importance of consumer control over personal assistance services in a self-directed service model, the legislature directs the department of public health and human services and the department of labor and industry to adopt administrative rules authorizing a person with a disability to act as though the person is the employer, for the purposes of selection, management, and supervision, of a personal assistant, although the personal assistant is the employee of another person or entity. The rules must reflect both the rights and protection guaranteed to workers under existing labor law and ensure that consumers of personal assistant services have day-to-day control, supervision, and direction over those services.

(2) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Ancillary services" means services ancillary to basic services provided to an individual in need of home-based care who needs one or more of the following basic services:

(i) homemaker-type services, including but not limited to shopping, laundry, cleaning, and seasonal chores;

(ii) companion-type services, including but not limited to transportation, letter writing, reading mail, assisting with alternative communication, and escort; and

(iii) assistance with cognitive tasks, including but not limited to managing finances, planning activities, prompting, and problem solving.

(b) "Basic services" includes assistance:

(i) getting in and out of bed, a wheelchair, or a motor vehicle; and

(ii) with routine bodily functions including:

(A) health maintenance activities;

(B) bathing and personal hygiene;

(C) dressing and grooming;

(D) feeding, including preparation and cleanup; and

(E) setup, use, and maintenance of assistive technologies.

(c) "Individual in need of home-based services" means an individual with a physical or mental impairment who requires assistance in completing functions of daily living, self-care, and mobility.

(d) "Personal assistant services" means those basic and ancillary services that enable an individual in need of home-based care to live in the individual's home and community rather than in an institution and to carry out functions of daily living, self-care, and mobility.

(3) The department of public health and human services is not required to provide personal-care services as part of the medicaid program in a self-directed service model as described in this section unless the personal assistant is an employee of an entity willing to provide the protections guaranteed to workers under existing labor laws, including but not limited to the payment of workers' compensation and unemployment insurance premiums.

(4) This section does not prohibit the department of public health and human services from determining the amount, scope, and duration of the personal assistance services provided under the medicaid program, nor does this section mandate personal assistance services.

(5) Medical and related liability for personal-care services provided pursuant to this section rests with the person directing the services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 525, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-146. Protection of tribal and Indian health service facilities from cost-shifting — seeking to leverage federal financial participation for state children's health insurance program and medicaid. (1) The department shall seek exemptions under federal medicaid law or regulations to protect Indian health services and tribal facilities from changes in eligibility categories, covered services, and reimbursement levels under the medicaid program that could potentially result in a direct shift of costs from the 100% federal medicaid matching available under medicaid to either Indian health services or tribally sponsored health care services.

(2) The department shall work with tribes or representatives from the federal Indian health service to seek mechanisms, including, if necessary, a waiver of federal law as permitted by section 1915 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n(b), to ensure that federal Indian health service-eligible medicaid participants who live on reservations may have any prescription filled at tribal or Indian health service health care facilities.

(3) The department shall work with tribes to explore the options for the state children's health insurance program to leverage 100% federal financial participation for health care services to Indian children.

(4) The department shall engage the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services and the United States congress to support efforts to have all services provided by and referred from an Indian health service included in the state medicaid plan eligible for the 100% federal financial participation match under medicaid regardless of the location where services are provided.

(5) (a) The department shall develop a policy and process to periodically review Indian-eligibility issues as they relate to medicaid and to include tribal government, urban Indian, and Indian health service representation in the development of a policy and process. Reviews conducted by the department in areas on or near reservations or in urban areas with significant Indian populations must include consultation with representatives of tribal governments and urban Indian programs.

(b) The department shall explore the issues and feasibility of applying for a federal waiver of medicaid law for a demonstration project to delegate authority to eligible tribes for determination and certification of medicaid eligibility.

(6) The department shall work with tribes to foster a spirit of cooperation, to identify and remove current institutional barriers that limit the participation of tribal members in the medicaid program, and to develop strategies, including education, to improve the mechanics of providing medicaid services to Indians by:

(a) ensuring that tribes have an adequate opportunity to review and verify data used to monitor medicaid services and eligibility status and to modify or promote changes in medicaid policy;

(b) consulting with tribal and urban Indian representatives on the effective use and appropriate sources of information on health care needs of Indians;

(c) at the request of a tribal representative, conducting technical assistance workshops to address issues specific to tribal needs regarding matters of centralized billing procedures, sound health care business practices, and development of needed health care infrastructure; and

(d) in compliance with the requirements of 2-15-141 through 2-15-143, consulting with tribes on any policy changes that may impact services or programs operated by tribes.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2005.**

53-6-147 reserved.

53-6-148. Indian health services federal revenue account. (1) There is an account in the federal special revenue fund established pursuant to 17-2-102 to be known as the Indian health service federal revenue account.

(2) Funds in the account are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for medicaid benefits for Indian health services or tribal health services.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 2017.**

53-6-149. State special revenue fund account — administration. (1) There is a hospital medicaid reimbursement account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.

(2) All money collected under 15-66-102[, except for the money deposited pursuant to 15-66-102(3)(b) into the Montana HELP Act special revenue account provided for in 53-6-1315,] must be deposited in the account.

(3) Money in the account must be used by the department of public health and human services to provide funding [no later than May 5 of each year] for increases in medicaid payments to hospitals and for the costs of collection of the fee and other administrative activities associated with the implementation of increases in the medicaid payments to hospitals. *(Bracketed language terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 390, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 415, L. 2019.**

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-150. Donated funds. The department of public health and human services may receive private funds and nonfederal and nonstate public funds for its medical assistance programs. Donated funds must be matched with federal funds whenever possible.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 457, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 422, L. 1997.**

53-6-151. Medicaid reserve account. There is a medicaid reserve account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. Money in the account must be used by the department for medicaid benefits after June 30, 2011. Any interest or income earned on the account must be deposited in the account. Each calendar quarter through December 31, 2010 the amount recovered under the federal medical assistance percentage hold harmless provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, must be transferred to the medicaid reserve account.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 489, L. 2009.**

53-6-152 through 53-6-154 reserved.

53-6-155. Definitions. As used in this part, unless expressly provided otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abuse" means conduct by an applicant, recipient, provider, or other person involving disregard of and an unreasonable failure to conform with the statutes, regulations, and rules governing the medical assistance program when the disregard or failure results or may result in an incorrect determination that a person is eligible for medical assistance or payment by a medicaid agency of medical assistance payments to which the provider is not entitled.

(2) "Applicant" means a person:

(a) who has submitted an application for determination of medicaid eligibility to a medicaid agency on the person's own behalf or on behalf of another person; or

(b) on whose behalf an application has been submitted.

(3) "Benefit" means the provision of anything of pecuniary value to or on behalf of a recipient under the medicaid program.

(4) "Claim" means a communication, whether in oral, written, electronic, magnetic, or other form, that is used to claim specific services or items as payable or reimbursable under the medicaid program or that states income, expense, or other information that is or may be used to determine entitlement to or the rate of payment under the medicaid program. The term includes any documents submitted as part of or in support of the claim.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Document" means any application, claim, form, report, record, writing, or correspondence, whether in written, electronic, magnetic, or other form.

(7) "Fraud" means any conduct or activity prohibited by statute, regulation, or rule involving purposeful or knowing conduct or omission to perform a duty that results in or may result in medicaid payments or benefits to which the applicant, recipient, or provider is not entitled. Fraud includes but is not limited to any conduct or omission under the medicaid program that would constitute a criminal offense under Title 45, chapter 6 or 7.

(8) "Medicaid" means the Montana medical assistance program established under Title 53, chapter 6.

(9) "Medicaid agency" means any agency or entity of state, county, or local government that administers any part of the medicaid program, whether under direct statutory authority or under contract with an authorized agency of the state or federal government. The term includes but is not limited to the department, the department of corrections, local offices of public assistance, and other local and state agencies and their agents, contractors, and employees, when acting with respect to medicaid eligibility, claims processing or payment, utilization review, case management, provider certification, investigation, or other administration of the medicaid program.

(10) "Misappropriation of patient property" means exploitation, deliberate misplacement, or wrongful use or taking of a patient's property, whether temporary or permanent, without authorization by the patient or the patient's designated representative. Misappropriation of patient property includes but is not limited to any conduct with respect to a patient's property that would constitute a criminal offense under Title 45, chapter 6, part 3.

(11) "Patient abuse" means the willful infliction of physical or mental injury of a patient or unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment that results in pain, physical or mental harm, or mental anguish of a patient. Patient abuse includes but is not limited to any conduct with respect to a patient that would constitute a criminal offense under Title 45, chapter 5.

(12) "Patient neglect" means a failure, through inattentiveness, carelessness, or other omission, to provide to a patient goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness when an omission is not caused by factors beyond the person's control or by good faith errors in judgment. Patient neglect includes but is not limited to any conduct with respect to a patient that would constitute a criminal offense under 45-5-208.

(13) "Provider" means an individual, company, partnership, corporation, institution, facility, or other entity or business association that has enrolled or applied to enroll as a provider of services or items under the medical assistance program established under this part.

(14) (a) "Originating site provider" means an enrolled provider who is operating a secure connection that complies with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and assisting an enrollee with the technology necessary for a telehealth visit.

(b) An originating site provider is not required to participate in the delivery of the health care service.

(15) "Recipient" means a person:

(a) who has been determined by a medicaid agency to be eligible for medicaid benefits, whether or not the person actually has received any benefits; or

(b) who actually receives medicaid benefits, whether or not determined eligible.

(16) (a) "Records" means medical, professional, business, or financial information and documents, whether in written, electronic, magnetic, microfilm, or other form:

(i) pertaining to the provision of treatment, care, services, or items to a recipient;

(ii) pertaining to the income and expenses of the provider; or

(iii) otherwise relating to or pertaining to a determination of eligibility for or entitlement to payment or reimbursement under the medicaid program.

(b) The term includes all records and documents, regardless of whether the records are required by medicaid laws, regulations, rules, or policies to be made and maintained by the provider.

(17) (a) "Telehealth" means the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide access to health assessment, diagnosis, intervention, consultation, supervision, and information across distance, including but not limited to the use of secure portal messaging, secure instant messaging, audiovisual communications, and audio-only communications.

(b) The term includes both clinical and nonclinical services.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 571, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 497, L. 2021.**

53-6-156. Medicaid fraud control unit. (1) There is a medicaid fraud control unit in the department of justice. The unit is under the supervision and control of the attorney general and, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, consists of the agents and employees of the department of justice whom the attorney general considers necessary and appropriate, including but not limited to:

(a) persons qualified by education, training, experience, and high professional competence in criminal and civil investigative procedures;

(b) at least one person licensed to practice law in Montana and qualified by education, training, experience, and high professional competence to prosecute crimes; and

(c) auditors and other additional professional and support staff.

(2) The medicaid fraud control unit is a criminal justice agency within the meaning of 44-5-103. Agents designated by the attorney general have peace officer status and authority, including but not limited to search, seizure, and arrest.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 354, L. 1995.**

53-6-157. Powers and duties of medicaid fraud control unit. (1) The medicaid fraud control unit shall:

(a) investigate and prosecute under applicable criminal statutes fraud and abuse by applicants, recipients, providers, or any other persons, including but not limited to cases referred by the department;

(b) review any complaint of patient abuse, patient neglect, and misappropriation of patient property and, when appropriate, shall investigate and initiate criminal proceedings or refer the complaint to another federal, state, or local agency for action;

(c) refer to the department for collection and, when appropriate, consideration and imposition of appropriate recipient restrictions or provider sanctions cases involving recipient or provider overpayments, fraud, abuse, inappropriate use of services, or other improper activities discovered by the unit in carrying out its activities;

(d) communicate and cooperate with and, subject to applicable confidentiality laws, provide information to other federal, state, and local agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of health care fraud, abuse, and other improper activities related to the medicaid program;

(e) transmit to other state and federal agencies, in accordance with law reports of convictions, copies of judgments and sentences imposed and other information and documents for purposes of program exclusions or other sanctions or penalties under medicaid, medicare, or other state or federal benefit or assistance programs; and

(f) recommend to state agencies appropriate or necessary adoption or revision of statutes, regulations, rules, policies, and procedures to prevent fraud, abuse, and other improper activities under the medicaid program and to aid in the investigation and prosecution of fraud, abuse, and other improper activities under the medicaid program.

(2) The medicaid fraud control unit may:

(a) initiate criminal prosecutions pursuant to subsection (1) in any court of competent urisdiction in the state of Montana;

(b) upon written request, obtain information and records from applicants, recipients, and roviders;

(c) exercise the authority granted to prosecutors with respect to criminal investigative ubpoenas under Title 46, chapter 4, part 3;

(d) subject to applicable federal confidentiality laws and regulations and for purposes elated to any investigation or prosecution pursuant to subsection (1), obtain from the lepartment, local offices of public assistance, and other local, county, or state government lepartments or agencies records and other information, including but not limited to applicant nd recipient applications, provider enrollment forms, claims and reports, individual or entity ax returns, or other information provided to or in the possession of the department of revenue r the state auditor;

(e) refer appropriate cases to other federal, state, or local agencies for investigation, rosecution, or imposition of penalties, restrictions, or sanctions;

(f) enter into agreements with the department and other federal, state, and local agencies n furtherance of the unit's mission; and

(g) do all things necessary to comply with 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(61) and 42 U.S.C. 1396b(q) nd any implementing federal regulations and policies that require the state to operate a nedicaid fraud control unit.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 571, L. 2001.

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Fraudulent obtaining of public assistance treated as theft, 53-2-107.

Overpayment of assistance — civil penalty when fraud, 53-2-108.

53-6-158. Cooperation of governmental agencies with medicaid fraud control nit. All local, county, and state departments and agencies shall cooperate with the medicaid raud control unit and its agents and employees to effectuate the purposes of the unit.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 354, L. 1995.

53-6-159. Permitted disclosure of information obtained in medicaid fraud control nit investigations. Records, documents, and other information obtained in the course of an nvestigation by the medicaid fraud control unit or its agents, employees, or attorneys may be isclosed:

(1) in accordance with the Montana Criminal Justice Information Act of 1979, as provided n Title 44, chapter 5; and

(2) to a medicaid agency for purposes related to administration of the medicaid program.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 354, L. 1995.

53-6-160. Truthfulness, completeness, and accuracy of submissions to medicaid gencies. (1) (a) A person who submits to a medicaid agency an application, claim, report, locument, or other information that is or may be used to determine eligibility for medicaid enefits, eligibility to participate as a provider, or the right to or the amount of payment under he medicaid program is considered to represent to the department, to the best of the person's nowledge and belief, that the item is genuine and that its contents, including all statements, laims, and representations contained in the document, are true, complete, accurate, and not nisleading.

(b) This section applies to the information provided by a program participant to claim an xemption from community engagement requirements under 53-6-1308 or to report community ngagement activities under 53-6-1309.

(2) (a) A provider has a duty to exercise reasonable care to ensure the truthfulness, ompleteness, and accuracy of all applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information nd of all statements and representations made or submitted, or authorized by the provider to be nade or submitted, to the department for purposes related to the medicaid program. The duty pplies whether the applications, claims, reports, documents, other information, statements, or epresentations were made or submitted, or authorized by the provider to be made or submitted, n behalf of the provider or on behalf of an applicant or recipient being served by the provider.

(b) A provider has a duty to exercise reasonable care to ensure that a claim made or submitted to the department or its agents or employees for payment or reimbursement under the medicaid program is one for which the provider is entitled to receive payment and that the service or item is provided and billed according to all applicable medicaid requirements, including but not limited to identification of the appropriate procedure code or level of service and provision of the service by a person, facility, or other provider entitled to receive medicaid payment for the particular service.

(3) A person is considered to have known that a claim, statement, or representation related to the medicaid program was false if the person knew, or by virtue of the person's position, authority, or responsibility should have known, of the falsity of the claim, statement, or representation.

(4) A person is considered to have made or to have authorized to be made a claim, statement, or representation if the person:

(a) had the authority or responsibility to:

(i) make the claim, statement, or representation;

(ii) supervise another who made the claim, statement, or representation; or

(iii) authorize the making of the claim, statement, or representation, whether by operation of law, business or professional practice, or office policy or procedure; and

(b) exercised or failed to exercise that authority or responsibility and, as a direct or indirect result, the false statement was made, resulting in a claim for a service or item when the person knew or had reason to know that the person was not entitled under applicable statutes, regulations, rules, or policies to medicaid payment or benefits for the service or item or for the amount of payment requested or claimed.

(5) (a) There is an inference that a person who signs or submits a document to a medicaid agency on behalf of or in the name of a provider is authorized by the provider to do so and is acting under the provider's direction.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "signs" includes but is not limited to the use of facsimile, computer-generated and typed, or block-letter signatures.

(6) The department shall directly or by contract provide a program of instruction and assistance to persons submitting applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information to the department concerning the completion and submission of the application, claim, report, document, or other information in a manner determined necessary by the department. The program must include:

(a) clear directions for the completion of applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information;

(b) examples of properly completed applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information;

(c) a method by which persons submitting applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information may, on a case-by-case basis, receive accurate, complete, specific, and timely advice and directions from the department before the completed applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information must be submitted to the department; and

(d) a method by which persons submitting applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information may challenge the department's interpretation or application of the manner in which the applications, claims, reports, documents, and other information must be completed.

(7) This section applies only for the purpose of civil liability under Title 53 and does not apply in a criminal proceeding. *(Subsection (1)(b) terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-161. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

53-6-162. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

53-6-163. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

53-6-164. Terminated. Sec. 8, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 614, L. 1991.

53-6-165. Definitions. As used in this part, unless expressly provided otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Financial institution" means any organization in the business of moving, investing, or ending money, dealing in financial instruments, or providing financial services, including but not limited to federally chartered and state-chartered banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions.

(3) "Recipient" means an individual who has been determined by a medicaid agency to be eligible for medicaid benefits, whether or not the individual has actually received a benefit, or an individual who has received benefits, whether or not that person has been determined to be eligible.

(4) (a) "Recoverable medical assistance" means a payment pursuant to this part, including but not limited to a payment made for items or services provided to and insurance premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance paid on behalf of a recipient who:

(i) during the recipient's lifetime, was an inpatient in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled, or institution for mental disease and, with respect to that institutionalization, the department determined under 53-6-171 that the person was not reasonably expected to be discharged and return home; or

(ii) was at least 55 years of age or younger if allowed by 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, when the item or service was provided or when the insurance premium, deductible, or coinsurance was paid.

(b) The term does not include medical assistance for medicare cost sharing or for benefits described in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(E).

(5) "Recovery" means legal action brought for the payment or repayment of recoverable medical assistance or amounts of money paid for other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 153, L. 2009.

53-6-166. Period of ineligibility for medical assistance when assets disposed of for less than fair market value — undue hardship exception — department to adopt rules. (1) The department shall, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, and mplementing federal regulations and policies, impose upon an applicant or recipient a period of neligibility for medical assistance under this part when the applicant or recipient or the spouse of either directly or indirectly disposes of any assets for less than fair market value during the applicable 3-year, 5-year, or other period provided by 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, or by other federal law.

(2) A period of ineligibility for medical assistance may not be imposed upon an applicant or recipient under this section to the extent that the department determines, in accordance with procedures specified by department rule, that the denial of eligibility would cause an undue hardship as defined by department rule.

(3) The department shall adopt rules that are consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, and that implement federal regulations and policies to implement this section. The rules adopted under this section must include but are not limited to rules addressing the following:

(a) a description of the circumstances considered to constitute an undue hardship;

(b) the procedures by which an individual may seek an undue hardship exception;

(c) the persons entitled to an undue hardship exception; and

(d) notice and opportunity for a hearing regarding imposition of a period of ineligibility or denial of an undue hardship exception.

(4) Nothing in 53-6-143, 53-6-144, 53-6-165, 53-6-167 through 53-6-169, 53-6-171 through 53-6-189, or this section is intended to prohibit the department from adopting rules consistent with federal law that provide for a period of ineligibility for public assistance programs other than medical assistance when an applicant or recipient directly or indirectly disposes of assets for less than fair market value.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-167. Recovery of medicaid benefits after recipient's death. (1) Except as provided in subsection (7) or (9)(b), after the death of a recipient, the department shall execute and present a claim against the recipient's estate, within the time specified in the published notice to creditors in the estate proceeding, for the total amount of recoverable medical assistance paid to or on behalf of the recipient. The department is not required to initiate probate proceedings in order to present a claim in a case in which no proceeding has been commenced to probate the estate of the deceased recipient.

(2) Except as prohibited by subsection (9)(b), after the death of a recipient, the department may execute and present a claim against a person who has received property of the recipient by distribution or survival for an amount equal to the recoverable medical assistance paid on behalf of the recipient or the value of the property received by the person from the recipient by distribution or survival, whichever is less. The amount recoverable from a person with respect to property of the recipient must be reduced by the value of any property transferred to the person for less than full market value for which a period of ineligibility was imposed under 53-6-166 against the recipient during the recipient's life. The department may bring an action in district court to collect upon a claim under this subsection (2).

(3) A department claim under subsection (1) or (2) must include notice of the right to seek an undue hardship exception under rules adopted by the department in accordance with subsection (8).

(4) (a) Notwithstanding any statute of limitations or other claim presentation deadline provided by law, a department claim against an estate is not barred for lack of timely presentation if it is presented in the probate proceeding within the time specified in the published notice to creditors.

(b) An action to collect a claim under subsection (2) must be commenced within 3 years of the later of the recipient's death or the closing of the recipient's estate.

(5) (a) For purposes of this section, property of a deceased recipient received by distribution or survival is any real or personal property or other assets in which the recipient had any right, title, or interest immediately prior to the time of death, including but not limited to assets passing to one or more survivors, heirs, assignees, or beneficiaries of the deceased recipient through joint tenancy, tenancy in common, right of survivorship, conveyance by the recipient subject to life estate, living trust, or other arrangement. For purposes of this section, property is not received by distribution or survival to the extent that the person received the property or property interest for consideration equal to the fair market value of the property or property interest received.

(b) Property received by distribution includes but is not limited to:

(i) property from a deceased recipient's estate distributed to a person through a probated estate or a small estate administration procedure; and

(ii) property from a deceased recipient's estate otherwise distributed to or in the possession of a person through any other procedure or when a legal procedure for distribution has not been followed.

(c) Assets of a deceased recipient's estate and property of a deceased recipient received by distribution or survival are not exempt from recovery under this section because the assets or property were or may have been considered by the department as exempt income or resources for the purpose of determining eligibility for medical assistance during the recipient's lifetime.

(6) (a) The department may seek recovery under subsection (1) or (2), or both, with respect to a deceased recipient until its claim is satisfied in full. Upon full satisfaction of its claim, the department may not seek further recovery and shall provide appropriate releases to the deceased recipient's estate and to other affected persons.

(b) An estate or other person is not entitled to a reduction or waiver of the department's claim on the grounds that there is or may be another person from whom recovery may be made under this section.

(7) The department may waive recovery under this section if it determines that recovery would not be cost-effective. In determining whether recovery would be cost-effective for purposes of this subsection, the department may consider but is not limited to consideration of the following factors:

(a) the estimated cost of recovery;

(b) the amount reasonably likely to be recovered;

(c) the likelihood that recovery by the department will cause a person to become eligible for public assistance; and

(d) the importance of the case or the issues in the case and the need for judicial interpretation of issues that may recur with respect to the administration or implementation of this section.

(8) (a) Upon presentation or assertion of a claim by the department under this section, the personal representative of the estate or another affected person may apply to the department, in accordance with procedures established by department rule, for a waiver of recovery based on undue hardship. The department shall waive its recovery under this section in whole or in part if it determines that recovery would result in undue hardship as defined by department rule.

(b) The department shall adopt rules that are consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, and that implement federal regulations and policies, establishing procedures and criteria for undue hardship exceptions. The rules adopted under this section must include but are not limited to rules addressing the following:

(i) a description of the circumstances considered to constitute an undue hardship;

(ii) the procedures by which an individual may seek an undue hardship exception;

(iii) the persons entitled to an undue hardship exception; and

(iv) whether an exception is partial or temporary and the circumstances under which partial or temporary exceptions may be granted.

(c) If a person is aggrieved by a department determination on an application for an undue hardship exception, the person may assert a claim of entitlement to an undue hardship exception in any court proceeding on a department petition for allowance of an estate claim or for recovery of an amount due under this section. When a person claims entitlement to an undue hardship exception in the proceeding, the court shall make a determination on the claim for an exception based upon the department rules adopted in accordance with this section. Department denial of all or any part of the relief requested in an exception application under this section may be reviewed by a district court only as provided in this subsection (8)(c). Denial does not grant a right to a contested case hearing or a right to judicial review under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act or the department's rules.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), if the requirements of this section are met, the department may collect upon its claim.

(b) The department may not recover under this section while there is a surviving spouse of the recipient or while there is a surviving child of the recipient who is under 21 years of age, blind, or permanently and totally disabled. This subsection (9)(b) does not preclude the department from recovering from the recipient's estate after the death of the surviving spouse or child.

(10) All money recovered under this section from any source must be distributed to the state general fund and to the United States as required by applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 153, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Creditors' claims against estate, Title 72, ch. 3, part 8.

53-6-168. Payment of certain funds of deceased recipient to department. (1) (a) A nursing facility, a financial institution, or a person holding personal funds of a deceased nursing facility resident who received medicaid benefits at any time shall, within 30 days following the resident's death, pay those funds to the department.

(b) A nursing facility may satisfy a debt owed by the deceased resident to the facility from the deceased resident's personal funds that are held by the nursing facility and that would have been payable to the facility from the resident's funds. The facility shall pay the remaining funds to the department as required by this section.

(c) Funds paid to the department under this section are not considered to be property of the deceased resident's estate, and 53-6-167 does not apply to recovery of the funds by the department.

(2) For purposes of this section, a nursing facility is holding personal funds of a resident if the facility:

(a) maintains possession of the funds in the facility; or

(b) as the recipient's trustee or representative, has deposited the resident's funds in an individual or shared account in a financial institution.

(3) The department shall apply any funds received under this section proportionately to the federal and state shares of recoverable medical assistance and shall pay any remaining amount to a person entitled by law to the funds.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 153, L. 2009.

53-6-169. Payment of excess burial funds or assets to department. (1) After the death of a person who at any time received medicaid benefits, a mortician, funeral director, or other person, including but not limited to the decedent's spouse, heir, devisee, or personal representative, who holds funds or other property in excess of $5,000 in value that was specifically designated and set aside for paying for the disposition of the decedent's remains and for related expenses shall, after paying for the disposition and related expenses, pay all remaining funds to the department within 30 days following the burial, cremation, or other final disposition of the decedent's remains. The funds must be paid to the department regardless of any provision in a written contract, trust, or other agreement entered into on or after July 1, 1995, directing a different disposition of the funds. Funds paid to the department under this section are not considered to be property of the decedent's estate, and 53-6-167 does not apply to recovery of the funds by the department.

(2) The department shall apply any funds received under this section proportionately to the federal and state shares of recoverable medical assistance and shall pay any remaining amount to a person entitled by law to the funds.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

53-6-170. Terminated. Sec. 18, Ch. 577, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 577, L. 1999.

53-6-171. Department lien upon real property of certain medicaid recipients — conditions. (1) Following notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in 53-6-172, the department shall impose a lien upon the real property, including the home, of an institutionalized recipient of recoverable medical assistance to secure the assets of the recipient for recovery of medical assistance paid on behalf of the recipient prior to, on, or after the imposition of the lien if:

(a) the recipient has been admitted to a nursing facility, an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled, or an institution for mental disease;

(b) the property upon which a lien is being imposed is the recipient's home and the home is not lawfully resided in by:

(i) the recipient's spouse;

(ii) the recipient's child who is under 21 years of age, blind, or permanently and totally disabled; or

(iii) the recipient's sibling who was residing in the recipient's home for a period of at least 18 months immediately prior to the recipient's institutionalization; and

(c) the recipient has been determined by the department, pursuant to subsection (2), to be permanently institutionalized.

(2) A recipient is permanently institutionalized for purposes of subsection (1)(c) if the department determines that the recipient cannot reasonably be expected to be discharged from the facility and to return home. There is a rebuttable presumption that the recipient cannot reasonably be expected to be discharged from the facility and return home if the recipient or a

representative of the recipient declares that there is no intent to return home or if the recipient has been institutionalized for 6 months or longer without a discharge plan. The recipient's institutionalization for a period of 6 months or longer without a discharge plan does not give rise to the presumption if the facility was required by law to adopt a discharge plan but failed to do so. A recipient or a recipient's representative who alleges that there is a reasonable expectation of discharge from the facility and a return home has the burden of demonstrating the reasonable expectation. The reasonable expectation must be established based upon medical evidence and medical opinion. A declaration by the recipient or a recipient's representative that the recipient intends to be discharged from the facility and to return home is not alone sufficient to establish that there is a reasonable expectation of discharge from the facility and a return home.

(3) For purposes of this section, real property of a recipient includes any interest in real property that may be subject to a judgment lien.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 403, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

53-6-172. Notice of intent to impose lien — opportunity for hearing. Before imposing a lien under 53-6-171, the department shall provide the recipient 30 days' written notice of its determination under 53-6-171(1)(c), of its intent to impose a lien, and of an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the department's hearing procedures under Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-173. Contents of lien document — scope of obligation secured. (1) The lien must contain the name and address of the recipient who owns an interest in the property, a legal description of the property, and an address and telephone number of the office or representative of the department who can provide more information about the lien. The lien applies only to the property described in the lien.

(2) The lien need not be executed by or on behalf of the medicaid recipient, but it must be executed by an authorized agent or employee of the department. The execution must be acknowledged as provided in 70-21-203.

(3) The lien need not state the specific amount of medical assistance repayment owed. The lien is sufficient to secure repayment of past, current, and future recoverable medical assistance if the lien states that:

(a) the lien is imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 to secure the described property for recovery of medical assistance paid on behalf of the recipient prior to, on, and after the date of the lien; and

(b) the amount paid for recoverable medical assistance is due upon sale, transfer, or exchange of any right, title, or interest of the recipient in the property or upon the recipient's death.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-174. Filing of lien — effect of filing — priority — renewal — dissolution of lien. (1) The lien must be filed in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county in which the real property is located.

(2) Filing of the lien constitutes legal notice of the lien to all persons, including subsequent purchasers, encumbrancers, mortgagees, and other lienholders. Upon filing, the lien is prior to any earlier unrecorded interest or claim and is prior to any subsequent interest or claim, whether or not recorded. The lien is subject to any unpaid property taxes, any prior recorded mortgage, or any other prior recorded encumbrance, interest, or claim. For purposes of recovery under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188, a sale, transfer, or exchange of the property by the recipient is considered a relinquishment of any homestead exemption under 70-32-201 and 70-32-202 of the recipient in the property subject to the lien.

(3) Except as provided in 53-6-171 through 53-6-188, the lien has the effect of a judgment lien when the lien is filed. For purposes of provisions of state laws relating to judgment liens, the department is considered the judgment creditor and the recipient or the recipient's spouse or successor in interest is considered the judgment debtor.

(4) After filing, the lien remains effective for a period of 6 years unless earlier satisfied, released, or dissolved. The department may renew a lien for one or more additional 6-year periods.

(5) If the recipient is discharged from the facility and returns home, the lien dissolves and is no longer effective unless a new lien is later imposed in accordance with 53-6-171 through 53-6-188. Following the recipient's discharge and return home, the department shall upon written request file a release of lien in the clerk and recorder's office. Dissolution of the lien under this subsection does not preclude the department from recovering under 53-6-167, 53-6-168, or 53-6-169.

(6) If the lien is imposed pursuant to 53-6-171 on the recipient's interest in jointly owned property that is subject to a right of survivorship, upon the recipient's death, the recipient's interest passes to the survivor, subject to the lien imposed pursuant to 53-6-171.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-175. Recovery of medical assistance secured by lien — application for issuance of writ of execution. (1) After the recipient's death or upon the sale, transfer, or exchange of any right, title, or interest of the recipient in the property, the department may file with the clerk of the district court in the county in which the real property is located an application for issuance of a writ of execution for levy on the real property described in the lien. The levy may be for the amount of recoverable medical assistance paid on behalf of the recipient prior to, on, and after the date of the lien, including amounts paid up to the date of sale of the property, plus interest and costs as provided by law. Costs do not include attorney fees.

(2) The application for the writ must be sworn and must contain the following:

(a) the name of the recipient, a legal description of the real property, and a description of the recipient's interest in the property;

(b) a statement that the department has imposed a lien upon the property under 53-6-171;

(c) a statement that the lien complies with the requirements of 53-6-171 through 53-6-188;

(d) the date upon which the lien was filed and the office in which it was filed;

(e) a description of the sale, transfer, exchange, or other event that entitles the department to recover;

(f) a statement that the lien has not dissolved under 53-6-174(5);

(g) the amount of recoverable medical assistance; the amount of any unreimbursed taxes, insurance costs, maintenance costs, or other costs paid under 53-6-186; and, if applicable, a statement that additional amounts may be paid up to the time that the property is sold in satisfaction of the lien;

(h) a statement that the total amount due has not been paid as of the date of the application for the writ;

(i) a statement that recovery is not prohibited by this section;

(j) the names and addresses of all persons who have a recorded interest in the property, including a recipient or recipient's estate, co-owner, purchaser, grantee, encumbrancer, mortgagee, and lienholder; and

(k) a request that a writ of execution be issued for sale of the described property if an action is not filed within the time provided for in 53-6-177.

(3) The filing of an application under this section for a writ of execution is not the filing of a legal action, and the requirements applicable to legal actions do not apply to the application or application proceedings.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-176. Notice of application — proof of notice — request for issuance of writ of execution. (1) The department shall provide notice, as required by this section, of the filing of the application for a writ of execution pursuant to 53-6-175 to all persons having a recorded interest in the property or residing lawfully on the property.

(2) The notice must contain a description of the property and must state that the department has a lien under 53-6-171 upon the described property, that the department has filed an application for a writ of execution seeking sale of the property, and that a writ will be issued unless an action challenging issuance of the writ has been filed in accordance with 53-6-177 within 60 days of the date of mailing or service of notice or first publication of

notice. The department shall include with the notice a copy of the application for the writ. The notice must also include notice of the right to seek an undue hardship exception as provided in 53-6-180.

(3) (a) The department may mail a copy of the notice, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, to the name and address stated in the recorded instrument creating each person's interest in the property or, in the case of a person residing on the property, to the address of the residence on the property. Mailing as provided in this subsection (a) is sufficient notice to the addressee if the return receipt is returned to the department and indicates that the notice was received by or on behalf of the addressee.

(b) If the return receipt is not returned to the department indicating that the notice was received by or on behalf of the addressee, the department shall attempt with reasonable diligence to locate the addressee and to personally serve or mail notice to that person.

(c) If after the exercise of reasonable diligence the department is unable to locate the person owning the interest in the property, the department shall publish the notice required by subsection (2) three times, once each week for 3 successive weeks, in a newspaper published in the county in which the property is located if a newspaper is published in the county. If a newspaper is not published in the county, then publication must be in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county.

(d) With respect to a person residing lawfully on the property but having no recorded interest in the property, the notice may be delivered to the residence and delivery is sufficient notice as to that person.

(e) In the alternative, the notice and application may be personally served upon any person entitled to notice under this section.

(4) (a) After giving notice as required by this section, the department shall file with the clerk of court an affidavit describing:

(i) the manner in which notice has been provided to each person entitled to notice;

(ii) the date of mailing, personal service, or first publication of the notice; and

(iii) the date by which each person is required to file an action to challenge issuance of the writ of execution.

(b) The department shall attach to the affidavit the return receipt, the affidavit of personal service, the affidavit of publication, or other proof of service of the notice. If no action has been filed within the time required by 53-6-177, the affidavit must so state and may request immediate issuance of the writ.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-177. Action to challenge issuance of writ of execution. A person with a recorded interest in or residing lawfully upon the real property described in an application filed under 53-6-175, including the recipient or recipient's estate or a co-owner, purchaser, grantee, encumbrancer, mortgagee, or lienholder, or any person described in 53-6-171(1)(b) or 53-6-178(2) or (3), may, within 60 days of mailing or service of notice or first publication of notice as provided in 53-6-176, file an action in the district court in the county in which the real property is located challenging the requested issuance of a writ of execution. The court shall determine the validity or invalidity of the department's lien and order appropriate relief, including issuance of the writ or denial of the application for issuance of the writ.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-178. Department right of recovery — limitations. (1) Except as provided in 53-6-180, 53-6-182, and this section, the department may collect upon its lien as provided in 53-6-171 through 53-6-188.

(2) The department may not recover upon a lien imposed on the recipient's home under 53-6-171 while the recipient's sibling or child who has resided lawfully and continuously in the home for at least 18 months immediately before the recipient's institutionalization continues to lawfully reside in the home. This subsection does not preclude the department from recovering under 53-6-167, 53-6-168, or 53-6-169.

(3) The department may not recover on a lien imposed under 53-6-171 while there is a surviving spouse of the recipient or while there is a surviving child of the recipient who is under 21 years of age, blind, or permanently and totally disabled. This subsection does not preclude the department from later recovery in accordance with 53-6-181.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 492, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 153, L. 2009.**

53-6-179. Payment of amount due — periodic payments — substitute security. (1) If the total amount due to the department to satisfy a lien imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 is paid, the department may not file an application under 53-6-175, shall withdraw its application if the application has already been filed, or shall instruct the sheriff to cancel the sale proceedings.

(2) In lieu of applying for a writ of execution, the department may agree with the heirs or devisees of the recipient to accept periodic payments for the repayment of recoverable medical assistance or may agree with the recipient's surviving spouse to accept substitute security and partial payment. The department may agree to periodic payments or substitute security if the terms of agreement, including security for repayment, are acceptable to the department and if the agreement does not reduce the amount due or the likelihood of recovering the amount due. The department may delay filing an application for issuance of a writ of execution for purposes of conducting negotiations for an agreement in lieu of execution.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

53-6-180. Waiver of recovery in cases of undue hardship — rulemaking. (1) (a) A person with a recorded interest in real property subject to a lien under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 or any other interested person may apply to the department, in accordance with procedures established by department rule, for a waiver of recovery because of undue hardship. The department shall waive its recovery under this section, in whole or in part, if it determines that recovery would result in undue hardship as defined by department rule.

(b) The department shall adopt rules, consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1396p, as may be amended, and implementing federal regulations and policies, establishing procedures and criteria for granting undue hardship exceptions under this section. The rules must include but are not limited to rules addressing the following:

(i) a description of the circumstances considered to constitute an undue hardship;
(ii) the procedures by which an individual may seek an undue hardship exception;
(iii) the persons entitled to an undue hardship exception; and
(iv) whether an exception is partial or temporary and the circumstances under which a partial or temporary exception may be granted.

(c) A person aggrieved by a department determination on an application for an undue hardship exception may assert a claim of entitlement to an undue hardship exception in an action filed under 53-6-177 to challenge issuance of the writ. If a person claims entitlement to an undue hardship exception as part of that action, the court shall make a determination on the undue hardship claim in accordance with the department's rules adopted pursuant to this section. Department denial of all or any part of the relief requested in an application for an undue hardship exception under this section may be reviewed by a district court only through filing of an action as provided in this subsection (c). Denial does not grant a right to a contested case hearing or a right to judicial review under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act or the department's rules.

(2) The department may waive recovery of recoverable medical assistance secured by a lien imposed under 53-6-171 if the department determines that recovery would not be cost-effective. In determining whether recovery would be cost-effective, the department may consider but is not limited to consideration of the following factors:

(a) the estimated cost of recovery;
(b) the amount reasonably likely to be recovered;
(c) the likelihood that recovery by the department will cause a person to become eligible for public assistance; and
(d) the importance of the case or the issues in the case and the need for judicial interpretation of issues that may recur with respect to the administration or implementation of 53-6-171 through 53-6-188.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-181. Delay in recovery — sale subject to lien. (1) If the department is precluded by 53-6-178(2) or (3) from recovery upon a lien imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188, the department shall maintain the lien in place and upon elimination of the condition that precluded recovery, the department may recover under this section. The department may not file an application for issuance of a writ of execution to recover under this subsection more than 3 years after elimination of the last condition that precluded recovery.

(2) If upon sale, transfer, or exchange of property subject to a lien imposed pursuant to 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 the department is precluded by 53-6-178(2) or (3) from recovering upon the lien, the lien remains in effect, subject to renewal as provided in 53-6-174, and the sale, transfer, or exchange is also subject to the lien.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-182. Spouse's limited exemption from lien. (1) Subject to Title 70, chapter 32, a recipient's surviving spouse who owns a home or an interest in a home in which the spouse resides that is subject to a lien imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 is, upon sale, transfer, or exchange of the home, entitled to an exemption from the department's lien in an amount determined in accordance with this section. The exemption is in the form of:

(a) a partial release of the department's lien if the exemption amount is less than the full amount of the department's lien; or

(b) a full release of the department's lien if the exemption amount is equal to or greater than the full amount of the department's lien.

(2) The amount of the exemption is the lesser of an amount equal to:

(a) the fair market value of the interest in the home that the surviving spouse received from the recipient by distribution or survival; or

(b) $100,000 minus the total fair market value of all of the surviving spouse's assets, other than the interest in the home that the surviving spouse received from the recipient by distribution or survival. For purposes of this section, the surviving spouse's assets do not include personal property that is exempt from execution under Title 25, chapter 13, part 6.

(3) The department may by rule require a surviving spouse to file an application for the exemption and to provide information, documentation, and verification regarding the applicant's assets and the fair market value of assets. The department shall provide the applicant notice of its determination on the application and of the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

(4) Upon determination by the department that the applicant is entitled to an exemption, the department shall provide to the applicant an appropriate full or partial release in the amount of the exemption.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-183. Issuance of writ of execution by clerk of court. (1) If the requirements of subsection (2) are met, the clerk of court shall issue a writ of execution specifying the property to be levied upon, the amount due as of the date of filing of the application, and a statement that additional amounts may be due up to and through the date of the sale.

(2) The clerk shall issue the writ if:

(a) (i) an action has not been filed under 53-6-177 within 60 days of mailing, service, or first publication of notice, as provided in 53-6-176;

(ii) the department has filed an affidavit meeting the requirements of 53-6-176(4); and

(iii) the department has filed a sworn application containing the statements required by 53-6-175; or

(b) the court has ordered the issuance of the writ in an action under 53-6-177.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-184. Effect of sale — title acquired. The purchaser of property pursuant to a writ of execution issued under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 acquires the right, title, interest, and claim that the recipient had at the time the lien was imposed, subject only to any right, title, interest, or claim arising from an instrument recorded prior to the department's lien under 53-6-171 and to any unpaid property taxes. The sale is absolute and is not subject to any period of redemption allowed by Title 25, chapter 13, part 8, or other law.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Tax due as judgment or lien, 15-16-401.

53-6-185. Disposition of sale proceeds — application of recovered medical assistance. (1) The proceeds of a sale of property sold pursuant to a writ of execution issued under 53-6-183 must be distributed in the following order:

(a) as satisfaction of any unpaid property taxes and prior recorded interests as described in 53-6-174(2);

(b) as payment of any claims under 53-6-186(3) and (4);

(c) to the department for application to any costs incurred under 53-6-186(1) and (2) or incurred in collection;

(d) to the department for recoverable medical assistance.

(2) The department shall apply any funds received under subsection (1)(d) proportionately to the federal and state shares of recoverable medical assistance.

(3) Any excess funds remaining after application of proceeds to recoverable medical assistance must be paid to the recipient, if living, or otherwise to the recipient's representative or successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

53-6-186. Action by department or other person to preserve property subject to lien — recovery of costs. (1) The department may, in its discretion, take any action it considers necessary to prevent waste or loss or to preserve the value of property subject to a lien under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188, including but not limited to the following:

(a) the payment of any unpaid taxes on the property;

(b) the purchase or renewal of insurance coverage on the property and the payment of necessary insurance premiums;

(c) the ordering of and payment for necessary repairs and maintenance on the property; and

(d) if the property is unoccupied, the rental or lease of the property and the application of any receipts first to unpaid property taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repair and, second, any remaining amount toward repayment of recoverable medical assistance.

(2) The department's reasonable costs and expenses to prevent waste or loss or to preserve the value of the property are secured by the lien imposed under 53-6-171 and may be recovered in addition to all other amounts secured by the lien.

(3) A person who, after the institutionalization or death of the recipient and after the institutionalization of the recipient's surviving spouse, if any, paid real property taxes, homeowner's insurance premiums, or reasonable costs of necessary maintenance or repairs on behalf of the recipient or recipient's spouse, with respect to property subject to a lien under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188, has a claim against the proceeds of a sale of the property under writ of execution issued pursuant to 53-6-183 for recovery of any amounts paid for those purposes. The claim must be supported by written documentation that clearly demonstrates the amount of each payment, the purpose of each payment, and the services and items purchased with each payment. A claim for reimbursement made under this subsection is prior to the department's lien imposed under 53-6-171.

(4) The amount of a claim made under subsection (3) must be reduced by:

(a) the amount of any rents and profits from the property paid after the institutionalization or death of the recipient and the institutionalization of the recipient's surviving spouse, if any;

(b) the value of any property that the person with a claim under subsection (3) will receive by distribution or survival from a deceased recipient if the recipient did not leave a surviving spouse; and

(c) the value of any property that the person with a claim under subsection (3) will receive by distribution or survival from the recipient's deceased spouse if the spouse survived the recipient.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 492, L. 1995.

53-6-187. Time for filing of application. Except as provided in 53-6-181, the department may not file an application for issuance of a writ of execution to recover upon a lien imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 more than 3 years after the latest of:

(1) a sale, transfer, or exchange of any right, title, or interest of the recipient in the property;

(2) the death of the recipient; or
(3) the death of the recipient's surviving spouse.
History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-188. Coordination of lien with other medical assistance recoveries. The xistence of a valid lien imposed under 53-6-171 through 53-6-188 or the fact that a lien under 3-6-171 through 53-6-188 is invalid for any reason or is unenforceable under 53-6-180 does not reclude the department from recovering under 53-6-167, 53-6-168, or 53-6-169.
History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

53-6-189. Rulemaking authority. The department may adopt rules to implement 3-6-143, 53-6-144, 53-6-165 through 53-6-169, and 53-6-171 through 53-6-188. The rules must omply with applicable federal law in 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended, and applicable mplementing regulations and policies.
History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 492, L. 1995.**

ross-References
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-190. Receipt of transferred assets for less than fair market value — fine. 1) A person who receives an asset for less than fair market value from an applicant for or ecipient of medical assistance for certain services under this part is subject to a civil fine ayable to the department if the department initiates a judicial proceeding and shows by a reponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the asset was transferred to qualify the applicant or recipient for medical assistance or long-term care or home and community-based services;

(b) the transfer resulted in the imposition of a period of ineligibility for medical assistance nder 53-6-166;

(c) the department advised the person who received the asset that the transfer would esult in a period of ineligibility and the person refused to return the asset to the applicant or ecipient; and

(d) the department provided medical assistance to the applicant or recipient during the eriod of ineligibility because the applicant or recipient received an undue hardship exception nder 53-6-166.

(2) A court may impose a civil fine of 100% to 150% of the amount that the department aid for medical assistance for the applicant or recipient during the period of ineligibility that is ttributable to the amount transferred to the person receiving the asset, plus the department's ourt costs and attorney fees.

(3) The department may petition a court to set aside a transfer that meets the requirements n subsection (1) and to require the return of the transferred asset to the applicant or recipient. ction under this subsection must be undertaken using available resources.

(4) All money collected under this section must be distributed to the state general fund nd to the United States as required by applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2013.**

53-6-191 through 53-6-194 reserved.

53-6-195. Medicaid program for workers with disabilities — purpose — eligibility — participant costs. (1) If appropriations specific for this purpose are provided by the egislature and federal approval of the necessary amendments to the state medicaid plan is ecured, the department shall administer a medicaid program that allows individuals with isabilities to participate in the medicaid program if they obtain employment that increases heir incomes above eligibility limits. Participants in the program may be required to pay a ortion of the costs for participation. The purpose of the program is to support employment for ndividuals with disabilities by providing medicaid coverage to individuals who would otherwise e ineligible for medicaid due to earnings that exceed the medicaid program's income limits.

(2) The medicaid program provided for under this section must be implemented in ccordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII) and (r)(2).

(3) An employed individual is eligible for the program if the individual:

(a) has a net family income that is less than 250% of the federal poverty level;

(b) would be categorically eligible for medicaid because the individual is disabled as defined under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1382c, except that the person has or has had earnings above the level for substantial gainful activity;

(c) has income and resources equal to or below the income and resource limits established by the department by rule, which may be less stringent than the income and resource limits for supplemental security income benefits; and

(d) satisfies all other eligibility criteria established by the department by rule.

(4) The department may establish:

(a) requirements for the employment status of participants, the verification of employment status, and permissible temporary breaks in employment;

(b) requirements, limitations, and definitions pertaining to the income and resources of participants;

(c) only to the extent allowed under 42 U.S.C. 1396o, requirements for payment of premiums, deductions, and cost sharing as a condition for participating in the program.

(5) The department shall, to the extent allowed by appropriations levels and under applicable state and federal law, coordinate the medicaid program provided for under this section with other state and federal programs and resources that promote opportunities for persons with disabilities to retain, regain, and maintain employment.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 2009.**

53-6-196. Performance-based rulemaking — privacy exemption. (1) Except for rules implementing rate increases or implementing federal law or regulation, the notice of a proposed rule concerning the delivery of medicaid services by the department must include, in addition to the other requirements under this chapter:

(a) a determination of whether the principal reasons and rationale for the rule can be assessed by performance-based measures and, if such an assessment can be made, the method the department will use to measure whether or not the principal reasons and the rationale for the intended action of the rule, as provided by 2-4-305(6)(b), are successfully achieved, including any data collection methods or metrics if applicable; and

(b) the period over which the intended outcomes will be measured, including any measurement intervals, if applicable.

(2) (a) No later than 1 year after the effective date of the rule subject to subsection (1), the department shall prepare a concise statement of findings evaluating whether, using the data collection or metric identified in the rule proposal, the data collected after the rule's effective date indicated that the rule successfully achieved its intended outcomes. The department shall post the statement of findings on its website.

(b) The department is not under an obligation to report on any other variables that may have impacted the results of the data collection methods or metrics.

(3) The department is exempted from the reporting requirements of subsection (2)(a) to the extent that the requirements would require the publication of confidential information.

(4) The department may only use existing resources to fulfill the mandates of this section

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 2015.**

53-6-197. Abortion coverage. (1) Coverage under the Montana medicaid program for physician services for abortion is allowed only if the abortion is performed by a physician and only if:

(a) the life of the mother will be endangered if the fetus is carried to term;

(b) the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(c) the abortion is medically necessary.

(2) To receive medicaid reimbursement for physician services for an abortion described in subsection (1)(a), a physician shall certify that the woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy, that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

(3) To receive medicaid reimbursement for physician services for an abortion described in subsection (1)(c), a physician shall certify that, although the woman is not in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, the woman suffers from:

(a) a physical condition that would be significantly aggravated by the pregnancy; or

(b) a severe mental illness or intellectual disability that would be significantly aggravated by the pregnancy.

(4) Prior authorization is required for physician services for abortion. If prior authorization s not obtained because of an emergency, a claim for payment must undergo post-service, prepayment review. Prior authorization is not required for treatments for incomplete abortion, miscarriage, or septic abortion.

(5) The following supporting documentation must be submitted for an abortion described n subsection (1)(a) or (1)(c), either with the prior authorization request or with any claim for payment for which prior authorization was not received:

(a) the woman's medical history, including:

(i) age, current medications, medical conditions, and allergies;

(ii) number of pregnancies and number of live births;

(iii) last menstrual period and the status and results of any pregnancy test;

(iv) chronic illnesses and surgeries;

(v) behavioral health issues;

(vi) smoking and substance abuse; and

(vii) obstetric history;

(b) a brief review of systems to identify symptoms the woman may be experiencing;

(c) the results of a physical examination, including vital signs, heart, lungs, abdomen, extremities, and, if imaging is not available, estimate of gestational age;

(d) if available, results of laboratory tests, including rh factor, hemoglobin, and human chorionic gonadotropin;

(e) if available, imaging to estimate gestational age;

(f) documentation that:

(i) the diagnosis of the condition leading to a determination that an abortion is necessary was made by a medical professional qualified by education, training, and experience to make the diagnosis; and

(ii) the woman is receiving care for the condition;

(g) the reason for the abortion procedure;

(h) for medication or chemical abortions, documentation confirming review of contraindications, adequate patient education, and compliance with the requirements of the medicaid physician-related services manual;

(i) the treatment plan; and

(j) the woman's signed informed consent for the proposed abortion procedure.

(6) As used in this section, the following terms apply:

(a) "Abortion" has the meaning provided in 50-20-104.

(b) "Physician" has the meaning provided in 37-3-102.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 488, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

53-6-198. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency — temporary)* **Enhanced rate to increase access to in-state mental health services for high-risk children with multiagency service needs — reporting requirement — rulemaking.** (1) In an effort to avoid the placement of high-risk children with multiservice agency needs in out-of-state residential treatment facilities, the department shall pay an enhanced medicaid reimbursement rate when an in-state provider of psychiatric residential treatment facility services provides treatment to a child who meets criteria established by the department. The criteria must be related to:

(a) the age of the child; or

(b) the acuity of the child's treatment needs.

(2) (a) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, the reimbursement rate for psychiatric residential treatment facility services provided to a child meeting the age or acuity criteria established pursuant to this section is the higher of:

(i) 133% of the rate in effect on July 1, 2022, for an in-state provider of the service; or

(ii) the rate adopted by the department for an in-state provider of the service for fiscal year 2024.

(b) The rate provided for in subsection (2)(a) must be increased in each subsequent fisca year by the provider rate increase approved by the legislature for children's mental health services for that fiscal year.

(3) The department shall annually determine, in consultation with providers of psychiatric residential treatment facility services, the criteria a child must meet for treatment to qualify for the enhanced reimbursement rate. The department shall notify providers of the determination no later than:

(a) May 15 for fiscal year 2024; and

(b) March 30 for subsequent fiscal years.

(4) The department shall adopt rules regarding the manner in which it will make the enhanced payments, including the frequency with which the payments will be made.

(5) (a) A provider that receives an enhanced reimbursement rate under this section shall:

(i) provide to the department a summary of the diagnoses, behaviors, and ages for the medicaid-eligible children receiving services from the provider in fiscal year 2023; and

(ii) report annually to the department on the diagnoses, behaviors, and ages of the medicaid-eligible children receiving services from the provider during the fiscal year in which the provider receives an enhanced reimbursement rate.

(b) The department shall report the information required under subsection (5)(a) to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

(6) For the purposes of this section, the term "high-risk child with multiagency service needs" has the meaning provided in 52-2-302. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 4, Ch. 586, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 586, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Termination: Section 4, Ch. 586, L. 2023, provided: "[Section 1] [53-6-198] terminates June 30, 2027."

Contingent Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 586, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] is effective on the later of July 1, 2023, or the date that the department of public health and human services certifies to the code commissioner that the centers for medicare and medicaid services has approved a state plan amendment for the enhanced reimbursement rate.

(2) The director of the department of public health and human services shall submit certification within 15 days of receiving notice of approval of the state plan amendment."

Part 2
Renal Disease Treatment Program (Renumbered)

53-6-201. Renumbered 50-44-101. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-6-202. Renumbered 50-44-102. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 3
Montana State Hospital (Renumbered and Repealed)

53-6-301. Renumbered 53-21-601. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-6-302. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1702; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 361, L. 1983.

53-6-303. Renumbered 53-21-602. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-6-304. Renumbered 53-21-603. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 4
Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care Medicaid Services

53-6-401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Home and community-based services" means, as provided for in section 1915 of Title IX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n(c), and any regulations implementing that tatute, long-term medical, habilitative, rehabilitative, and other services provided in personal esidences or in community settings and funded by the department with medicaid money.

(3) "Level-of-care determination" means an assessment of a person and the resulting etermination establishing whether long-term care facility services to be provided to the person re appropriate to meet the health care and related circumstances and needs of the person.

(4) "Long-term care facility" means a facility that is certified by the department, as provided n 53-6-106, to provide skilled or intermediate nursing care services, including intermediate ursing care services for persons with developmental disabilities or, for the purposes of mplementation of medicaid-funded programs of home and community-based services, that is ecognized by the U.S. department of health and human services to be an institutional setting rom which persons may be diverted through the receipt of home and community-based services.

(5) "Long-term care preadmission screening" means, in accordance with section 1919 of itle XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396r, a process conducted according to a specific et of criteria for determining whether a person with intellectual disability or mental illness ay be admitted to a long-term care facility.

(6) "Persons with disabilities or persons who are elderly" means, for purposes of stablishing home and community-based services, those categories of persons who are elderly nd disabled as defined in accordance with section 1915 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 2 U.S.C. 1396n.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. ec. 162, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 458, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 353, L. 005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 68, L. 2013.**

ross-References

Certified health facilities, Title 50, ch. 5.

53-6-402. Medicaid-funded home and community-based services — waivers – funding limitations — populations — services — providers — long-term care readmission screening — powers and duties of department — rulemaking authority. 1) The department may obtain waivers of federal medicaid law in accordance with section 1915 f Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n, and administer programs of home nd community-based services funded with medicaid money for categories of persons with isabilities or persons who are elderly.

(2) The department may seek and obtain any necessary authorization provided under ederal law to implement home and community-based services for seriously emotionally isturbed children pursuant to a waiver of federal law as permitted by section 1915 of Title XIX f the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n(c). The home and community-based services system hall strive to incorporate the following components:

(a) flexibility in design of the system to attempt to meet individual needs;

(b) local involvement in development and administration;

(c) encouragement of culturally sensitive and appropriately trained mental health roviders;

(d) accountability of recipients and providers; and

(e) development of a system consistent with the state policy as provided in 52-2-301.

(3) The department may, subject to the terms and conditions of a federal waiver of law, dminister programs of home and community-based services to serve persons with disabilities r persons who are elderly who meet the level of care requirements for one of the categories f long-term care services that may be funded with medicaid money. Persons with disabilities nclude persons with physical disabilities, chronic mental illness, developmental disabilities, rain injury, or other characteristics and needs recognized as appropriate populations by the .S. department of health and human services. Programs may serve combinations of populations nd subsets of populations that are appropriate subjects for a particular program of services.

(4) The provision of services to a specific population through a home and community-based ervices program must be less costly in total medicaid funding than serving that population hrough the categories of long-term care facility services that the specific population would be ligible to receive otherwise.

(5) The department may initiate and operate a home and community-based service program to more efficiently apply available state general fund money, other available stat and local public and private money, and federal money to the development and maintenance o medicaid-funded programs of health care and related services and to structure those program for more efficient and effective delivery to specific populations.

(6) The department, in establishing programs of home and community-based services shall administer the expenditures for each program within the available state spendin authority that may be applied to that program. In establishing covered services for a hom and community-based services program, the department shall establish those services i a manner to ensure that the resulting expenditures remain within the available funding fo that program. To the extent permitted under federal law, the department may adopt financia participation requirements for enrollees in a home and community-based services program t foster appropriate utilization of services among enrollees and to maintain fiscal accountability o the program. The department may adopt financial participation requirements that may includ but are not limited to copayments, payment of monthly or yearly enrollment fees, or deductibles The financial participation requirements adopted by the department may vary among th various home and community-based services programs. The department, as necessary, ma further limit enrollment in programs, reduce the per capita expenditures available to enrollees and modify and reduce the types and amounts of services available through a home an community-based services program when the department determines that expenditures for program are reasonably expected to exceed the available spending authority.

(7) The department may consider the following populations or subsets of populations fo home and community-based services programs:

(a) persons with developmental disabilities who need, on an ongoing or frequent basis habilitative and other specialized and supportive developmental disabilities services to mee their needs of daily living and to maintain the persons in community-integrated residential an day or work situations;

(b) persons with developmental disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and who ar in need of habilitative and other specialized and supportive developmental disabilities service necessary to maintain the persons in personal residential situations and in integrated wor opportunities;

(c) persons 18 years of age and older with developmental disabilities and chron mental illness who are in need of mental health services in addition to habilitative and othe developmental disabilities services necessary to meet their needs of daily living, to treat thei mental illness, and to maintain the persons in community-integrated residential and day o work situations;

(d) children under 21 years of age who are seriously emotionally disturbed and in nee of mental health and other specialized and supportive services to treat their mental illnes and to maintain the children with their families or in other community-integrated residentia situations;

(e) persons 18 years of age and older with brain injuries who are in need, on an ongoin or frequent basis, of habilitative and other specialized and supportive services to meet thei needs of daily living and to maintain the persons in personal or other community-integrate residential situations;

(f) persons 18 years of age and older with physical disabilities who are in need, on a ongoing or frequent basis, of specialized health services and personal assistance and othe supportive services necessary to meet their needs of daily living and to maintain the persons i personal or other community-integrated residential situations;

(g) persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection who are in need o specialized health services and intensive pharmaceutical therapeutic regimens for abatemen and control of the HIV infection and related symptoms in order to maintain the persons i personal residential situations;

(h) persons with chronic mental illness who suffer from serious chemical dependency an who are in need of intensive mental health and chemical dependency services to maintain th persons in personal or other community-integrated residential situations;

(i) persons 65 years of age and older who are in need, on an ongoing or frequent basis, f health services, personal assistance, and other supportive services necessary to meet their needs of daily living and to maintain the persons in personal or other community-integrated esidential situations; or

(j) persons 18 years of age and older with chronic mental illness who are in need, on n ongoing or frequent basis, of specialized health services and other supportive services necessary to meet their needs of daily living and to maintain the persons in personal or other ommunity-integrated residential situations.

(8) For each authorized program of home and community-based services, the department hall set limits on overall expenditures and enrollment and limit expenditures as necessary to onform with the requirements of section 1915 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 396n, and the conditions placed upon approval of a program authorized through a waiver of ederal law by the U.S. department of health and human services.

(9) A home and community-based services program may include any of the following ategories of services as determined by the department to be appropriate for the population or opulations to be served and as approved by the U.S. department of health and human services:

(a) case management services;

(b) homemaker services;

(c) home health aide services;

(d) services provided by a licensed pediatric complex care assistant as authorized under itle 37, chapter 2, part 6;

(e) personal care services;

(f) adult day health services;

(g) habilitation services;

(h) respite care services; and

(i) other cost-effective services appropriate for maintaining the health and well-being of ersons and to avoid institutionalization of persons.

(10) Subject to the approval of the U.S. department of health and human services, the epartment may establish appropriate programs of home and community-based services under his section in conjunction with programs that have limited pools of providers or with managed are arrangements, as implemented through 53-6-116 and as authorized under section 1915 of itle XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396n, or in conjunction with a health insurance lexibility and accountability demonstration initiative or other demonstration project as uthorized under section 1115 of Title XI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315.

(11) (a) The department may conduct long-term care preadmission screenings in accordance with section 1919 of Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396r.

(b) Long-term care preadmission screenings are required for all persons seeking admission o a long-term care facility.

(c) A person determined through a long-term care preadmission screening to have an ntellectual disability or a mental illness may not reside in a long-term care facility unless the erson meets the long-term care level-of-care determination applicable to the type of facility and s determined to have a primary need for the care provided through the facility.

(d) The long-term care preadmission screenings must include a determination of whether he person needs specialized intellectual disability or mental health treatment while residing in he facility.

(12) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement the long-term care readmission screening process as required by section 1919 of Title XIX of the Social Security ct, 42 U.S.C. 1396r. The rules must provide criteria, procedures, schedules, delegations of esponsibilities, and other requirements necessary to implement long-term care preadmission creenings.

(13) (a) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of each program f home and community-based services, including rules for substantive changes to approved waiver provisions as required under 53-6-413. The rules may include but are not limited to the ollowing:

(i) the populations or subsets of populations, as provided in subsection (7), to be served in ach program;

(ii) limits on enrollment;

(iii) limits on per capita expenditures;

(iv) requirements and limitations for service costs and expenditures;

(v) eligibility categories criteria, requirements, and related measures;

(vi) designation and description of the types and features of the particular services provide for under subsection (9);

(vii) provider requirements and reimbursement;

(viii) financial participation requirements for enrollees as provided in subsection (6);

(ix) utilization measures;

(x) measures to ensure the appropriateness and quality of services to be delivered; and

(xi) other appropriate provisions necessary to the administration of the program and th delivery of services in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396n and any conditions placed upon approva of a program by the U.S. department of health and human services.

(b) Unless required by federal law or regulation, the department may not adopt rules tha exclude a child from home and community-based services or require prior authorization for child to access home and community-based services if the child would be eligible for or able t access the home and community-based services without prior authorization if the child was no in foster care.

(c) Reimbursement rates for pediatric complex care assistants licensed pursuant t 37-2-603 must reflect the special skills needed to meet the health care needs of the individual receiving the services and must be comparable to the reimbursement rate for home health aid services.

(14) The department shall establish by rule the procedures for moving a person from waiting list for services provided through a medicaid home and community-based services waive into the waiver services, including the process and priorities to be used in making determination related to the waiting list. The department may not modify the policies established in rule b adopting supplemental policies or procedures not subject to the administrative rulemakin process.

(15) The department shall adopt rules for the provision of the fraud prevention trainin required under 53-6-405, including but not limited to establishing the elements that must b contained in fraud prevention education materials and the models that may be used for th training.

(16) The department shall adopt rules to carry out the cost reporting provisions of 53-6-406 including but not limited to the costs that a provider is required to report to the department the format of the report, and the deadline for filing the report. *(Subsections (9)(d) and (13)(c terminate June 30, 2031—sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. Secs. 2 thru 5, Ch. 516, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 711, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 2005 amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 442, L 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 628, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 628, L. 2023. Amendment effectiv July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2031.

53-6-403. Home and community-based services waivers — legislative findings an intent. (1) The legislature finds that home and community-based services allow individual who would otherwise need an institutional level of care to remain in their homes and to bette integrate into their communities.

(2) The legislature further finds that home and community-based services offer a lower-cos alternative to institutional care.

(3) The legislature further finds that waiver participants often need multiple service that individually may not prevent institutionalization but when provided as a package allow person to remain in a home or community setting.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature that in evaluating the services proposed for waive participants, the department shall:

(a) review whether the services and equipment recommended by medical professional will collectively, not individually, prevent an individual from requiring an institutional level o care; and

(b) approve each waiver service or item of medical equipment that will contribute to llowing a person to remain in a home or community setting even if the service or item on its wn would not prevent an institutional level of care.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 2021.

53-6-404. Use of waiver funding. (1) The department shall use money appropriated for ome and community-based services waiver slots for the purpose of:

(a) creating waiver slots as authorized by the legislature; or

(b) addressing workforce shortages or other barriers to creating the number of waiver lots authorized by the legislature.

(2) Unencumbered funds appropriated for home and community-based services waiver lots for use by a particular division may not be transferred to another department division or rogram. The money must be used for the program for which it was appropriated or be reverted o the fund from which it was appropriated.

(3) The department shall report annually to the legislative finance committee in accordance vith 5-11-210 on the status of appropriations for home and community-based services waiver lots.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 2021.

53-6-405. Fraud prevention education — department responsibilities. (1) In an ffort to prevent and reduce fraud in the Montana medicaid program, a provider of personal ssistance or attendant services or supports shall provide training and continuing education o consumers and employees if the personal assistance or attendant services or supports are unded:

(a) as a medicaid state plan service;

(b) through a medicaid state plan option available to the state under 42 U.S.C. 1396n(k); r

(c) under a medicaid home and community-based services waiver for the elderly and lisabled that is operated through a division of the department that administers long-term care ervices for senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities.

(2) (a) The training must be presented in person whenever the provider:

(i) hires a new employee; or

(ii) enrolls a consumer to receive services.

(b) The provider shall require its employees and the consumers who are receiving services o review fraud prevention materials on an annual basis after completing the initial training.

(c) Each employee and consumer shall sign a document attesting to the fact that the mployee or consumer received the in-person training or received and reviewed the fraud revention materials.

(d) When the training involves services provided using a self-directed service model, the onsumer may provide the training.

(3) The training and continuing education must include but are not limited to information n:

(a) activities that constitute fraud;

(b) ways to prevent fraud; and

(c) when and how to report fraud, including how to contact the medicaid fraud hotline.

(4) (a) The department and the medicaid fraud control unit provided for in 53-6-156 shall, n consultation with home and community-based services consumers, providers, and advocates, levelop the elements to be included in the training.

(b) A provider required to provide training under this section may:

(i) develop training materials that meet the requirements developed by the department nd the medicaid fraud control unit; or

(ii) use training materials approved by the department by rule.

(5) The department may adopt rules requiring other providers of medicaid home and ommunity-based services that are provided in a person's home to provide the training required nder this section.

(6) The department shall:

(a) review and approve fraud education materials; and

(b) monitor compliance with training requirements.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 2015.

53-6-406. Fiscal accountability for home and community-based services — report to legislature. (1) (a) A provider of home and community-based services shall submi cost information to the department each year if personal assistance, community supports private-duty nursing, or attendant services or supports are funded:

(i) as a state plan service;

(ii) through a medicaid state plan option available to the state under 42 U.S.C. 1396n(k) or

(iii) under a home and community-based services waiver that is operated through a division of the department that administers home and community-based services.

(b) The information provided to the department must reflect costs incurred during the provider's most recent fiscal year.

(2) The department shall develop a standardized format for the information that includes the recognized revenues and expenditures incurred by providers.

(3) The department shall analyze cost information submitted by providers to determine at a minimum:

(a) the reasonable cost of providing the home and community-based services detailed in the report;

(b) the percentage of a provider's cost represented by payment of wages and benefits for direct-care employees; and

(c) the level of profit or loss that each provider incurred in delivering the service. The profit or loss must be determined by comparing the recognized cost of providing the service with the medicaid reimbursement provided for the same service.

(4) The department shall establish protocols to protect provider-specific confidential data from public disclosure.

(5) By September 1 of the year preceding a regular legislative session, the department shall report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on all information in this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

53-6-407. Notification required before termination of waiver participation (1) The department shall notify a person participating in a medicaid home and community-based services waiver at least 30 days before terminating the person's participation in the waiver. The department shall:

(a) notify the person of the planned termination from the program by mail; and

(b) allow the person to provide the department with information demonstrating the person's continued need for waiver services. The information must be provided within 30 days of the date the notification was mailed.

(2) (a) The department may terminate the person's participation in the waiver at the end of the 30-day period provided for in subsection (1) if:

(i) the person has not responded to the notification; or

(ii) after reviewing information provided by the person, the department has determined the person is no longer eligible to participate in the waiver.

(b) If the department determines that the person is no longer eligible to participate in the waiver, the department must notify the person by mail before the expiration of the 30-day notification period.

(3) The termination notice provided for in subsection (2) must state that:

(a) the decision may be appealed in accordance with 53-2-606;

(b) the person may request continued services during the period of the appeal; and

(c) the department will not seek reimbursement of services provided during the period of appeal unless the department finds evidence of fraud or other similar circumstances indicating waiver services were not warranted.

(4) An appeal must be filed within 90 days of the mailing date of the termination notice provided for in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 2021.

53-6-408 through 53-6-412 reserved.

53-6-413. Substantive changes to waiver provisions — rulemaking requirements – definition. (1) The department may not make a substantive change to the services offered nder an approved waiver or to the eligibility requirements or process for waiver participants nless the department:

(a) adopts rules to implement the changes; and

(b) if necessary, submits a waiver amendment to the centers for medicare and medicaid ervices and receives approval for the change.

(2) (a) For the purposes of this section, “substantive change” means a change that:

(i) reduces, limits, or otherwise establishes caps on the amount or duration of a service; or

(ii) limits a person’s ability to access waiver services.

(b) The term includes but is not limited to changes requiring:

(i) preauthorization before a service is provided;

(ii) preauthorization before an individual is placed on the waiting list for services; or

(iii) that services be used within a specific, shorter time period than previously allowed.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2021.

Part 5
Traumatic Brain Injury — Services

53-6-501. Traumatic brain injury defined. (1) (a) As used in 53-6-502 and this section, traumatic brain injury” means:

(i) an injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, including but not limited o a motor vehicle accident, a fall, an assault, a sports injury, or a recreational or work-related ccident; or

(ii) brain damage caused by an internal occurrence including but not limited to:

(A) disease, such as a benign or malignant tumor, meningitis, or encephalitis; or

(B) a cerebrovascular accident, such as stroke, atherosclerosis, aneurysm, or arteriovenous nalformation; or

(C) anoxia, including but not limited to anoxia caused by near drowning, drug overdose, idney or heart failure, chemical exposure, or electrical shock.

(b) The term “traumatic brain injury” does not include injuries of a degenerative or ongenital nature.

(2) Traumatic brain injury as defined in this section may produce a diminished or altered tate of consciousness that results in a temporary or permanent impairment of cognitive or nental abilities, physical functioning, or behavioral or emotional functioning.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 1993.

53-6-502. Traumatic brain injury trust fund established — source of funds — uses. 1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to be used to establish a traumatic rain injury trust fund.

(2) The trust fund consists of donations or grants received for the purpose of providing ervices for persons suffering from traumatic brain injury.

(3) The money in this account must be used solely for planning, coordinating, and providing ervices to persons suffering from traumatic brain injury.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 591, L. 1993.

Part 6
Long-Term Care Reform

53-6-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the “Montana Long-Term Care Reform Act”.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1995.

53-6-602. Purpose — policy. (1) The legislature finds that in keeping with the traditional oncept of the inherent dignity of the individual in a democratic society, the elderly or persons vith disabilities should be able to live as independently as possible.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) the ability to continue to live in a person's own residence or in the least restrictiv setting best serves the health and dignity of the elderly or persons with disabilities;

(b) state programs of assistance for the elderly or persons with disabilities should b coordinated in a manner that best serves the interests of the recipients;

(c) state programs of assistance for the elderly or persons with disabilities shoul encourage the development of services that support the maintenance of lives as independentl as possible;

(d) state programs of assistance for the elderly or persons with disabilities shoul encourage the development of affordable services for persons seeking services, whether finance through private means or public means;

(e) the elderly or persons with disabilities should be able to obtain insurance and othe means of private financing for services that are affordable and readily available; and

(f) state agencies are required to carry out their various responsibilities for the provisio of assistance, the protection of the elderly and persons with disabilities, and the licensing o facilities and professions in accordance with this part.

(3) The legislature declares that the policy of this state is to:

(a) respect the dignity of persons in the provision of state-sponsored and state-funde services for the elderly and persons with disabilities by seeking to maintain the maximum leve of independence possible for those persons receiving services;

(b) foster the development of community services that allow a person to choose to remai in a person's own residence or in the least restrictive setting;

(c) foster coordination of services for the elderly or persons with disabilities among th various public and private programs; and

(d) foster the development of private means of financing services for the elderly or person with disabilities.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 384, L. 1995.**

53-6-603. Long-term care service development — coordination — delivery (1) The department of public health and human services shall cooperate in the development implementation, and coordination of state programs of assistance for the elderly or persons wit disabilities.

(2) The planning and delivery systems that provide state programs of assistance for th elderly and persons with disabilities must be jointly coordinated to foster:

(a) efficient and cost-effective financing, service delivery, intake, eligibility, assessment and other measures, as appropriate; and

(b) general development of service systems that may serve persons with either privat means or public means of financing services at a reasonable cost.

(3) State programs of assistance for the elderly or for persons with disabilities should b made available in the most appropriate, most cost-effective, and least restrictive residentia setting integrated into a community.

(4) State programs of assistance that provide services or oversight in order to maintain or t protect a person's health and social life should recognize the person's dignity and independence

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 384, L. 1995.**

Part 7
Medicaid Managed Care

53-6-701. Policy of medicaid managed care — system for integrated health care services. It is the public policy of the state of Montana to adopt, to the extent practicable, a health care system that encourages the integration of health care services and that manage the health care of enrollees to improve their health while preserving reasonable choice within a competitive and cost-efficient environment. In furtherance of this public policy, the department shall develop and implement integrated health care programs consistent with the provision of this part. The provisions of this part apply only to programs created under this part. Th department shall by rule identify persons eligible for enrollment in a program. The department shall inform enrollees of their choice, if any, among health care delivery systems. Person enrolled in a program may also be offered cost-effective indemnity insurance plans, subject t availability.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 2001.**

53-6-702. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(2) "Health maintenance organization" means a health maintenance organization as defined in 33-31-102.

(3) (a) "Managed health care entity" or "entity" means a health maintenance organization or an insurer regulated under Title 33 that:

(i) contracts for an estimated annual value of $1 million or more of state and federal medicaid funds; or

(ii) operates statewide or covers 20% or more of the medicaid population.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a provider of health care services under a contract with the department on a fee-for-service basis;

(ii) a medicaid primary care case management service within the meaning of 42 CFR 438; or

(iii) a PACE organization as defined in 42 CFR 460.6 or an accountable care organization as defined in 33-31-102 that has received a waiver under 33-31-201.

(4) "Program" means an element of the integrated health care system created by this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 401, L. 2003; amd. Sec. , Ch. 403, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 346, L. 2011.

53-6-703. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 351, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 426, L. 2009.

53-6-704. Different benefit packages. (1) The department may by rule provide for different benefit packages for different categories of persons enrolled in the program. Alcohol and substance abuse services, services for mental disorders, services related to children with chronic or acute conditions requiring longer-term treatment and followup, and rehabilitation care provided by a freestanding rehabilitation hospital or a rehabilitation unit may be excluded from a benefit package and those services may be made available through a separate delivery system. If a service is excluded from the program but made available in a separate delivery system by a managed health care entity, that managed health care entity is subject to this part. An exclusion does not prohibit the department from developing and implementing demonstration projects for categories of persons or services. Benefit packages for persons eligible for medical assistance under Title 53, chapter 6, parts 1 and 4, may be based on the requirements of those parts and must be consistent with the Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This part applies only to services purchased by the department.

(2) The program established by this part may be implemented by the department in various contracting areas at various times. The health care delivery systems and providers available under the program may vary throughout the state. Except as otherwise provided in a contract for mental health services and subject to the public comment and review provisions of 53-6-710 and 53-6-711, a licensed managed health care entity must be permitted to contract in any geographic area for which it has a sufficient provider network and that otherwise meets the requirements of the state contract.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 351, L. 2011.

53-6-705. Requirements for managed health care entities. (1) A managed health care entity that contracts with the department for the provision of services under the program shall comply with the requirements of this section for purposes of the program.

(2) The entity shall provide for reimbursement for health care providers for emergency care, as defined by the department by rule, that must be provided to its enrollees, including emergency room screening services and urgent care that it authorizes for its enrollees, regardless of the provider's affiliation with the managed health care entity. Health care providers must be reimbursed for emergency care in an amount not less than the department's rates for those medical services rendered by health care providers who are not under contract with the entity to enrollees of the entity.

(3) The entity shall maintain a network of health care providers that is sufficient in number and type to ensure that the services approved by the department for delivery to

medicaid recipients covered by the entity are available without unreasonable delay as required under the network adequacy and quality assurance provisions of Title 33, chapter 36, and any rules promulgated under that chapter.

(4) The entity shall provide that any health care provider affiliated with a managed health care entity may also provide services on a fee-for-service basis to department clients who are not enrolled in a managed health care entity.

(5) The entity shall provide client education services as determined and approved by the department, including but not limited to the following services:

(a) education regarding appropriate use of health care services in a managed care system

(b) written disclosure of treatment policies and any restrictions or limitations on health services, including but not limited to physician services, clinical laboratory tests, hospital and surgical procedures, prescription drugs and biologicals, and radiological examinations; and

(c) written notice that the enrollee may receive from another provider those medicaid-covered services that are not provided by the managed health care entity but that are the financial responsibility of the entity.

(6) The entity shall provide that enrollees within its system will be informed of the full panel of health care providers. Contracts for the provision of services beyond 125 miles from the borders of Montana may not be entered into if services of comparable cost and quality are available within the state of Montana.

(7) The entity may not discriminate in its enrollment or disenrollment practices among recipients of medical services or program enrollees based on health status.

(8) For purposes of participation in the medicaid program, the entity shall comply with quality assurance and utilization review requirements established in Title 33, chapter 36, and by the department by rule.

(9) The entity shall require that each provider meets the standards for accessibility and quality of care established by law. The department shall prepare an annual report regarding the effectiveness of the standards on ensuring access and quality of care to enrollees.

(10) The entity shall maintain, retain, and make available to the department records, data and information, in a uniform manner determined by the department, that are:

(a) sufficient for the department, the legislative auditor's office, and the state auditor's office to monitor utilization, accessibility, and quality of care; and

(b) consistent with accepted practices in the health care industry.

(11) Except for health care providers who are prepaid, the entity shall pay all approved claims for covered services that are correctly completed and submitted to the entity within 30 days after receipt of the claim or receipt of the appropriate capitation payment or payments by the entity from the state for the month in which the services included on the claim were rendered, whichever is later. If payment is not made or mailed to the provider by the entity by the due date under this subsection, an interest penalty of 1% of any amount unpaid must be added for each month or fraction of a month after the due date until final payment is made. This part does not prohibit managed health care entities and health care providers from mutually agreeing to terms that require more timely payment.

(12) The entity shall seek cooperation with community-based programs provided by local health departments, such as the women, infants, and children food supplement program, childhood immunization programs, health education programs, case management programs, and health screening programs.

(13) The entity shall seek cooperation with community-based organizations, as defined by rule of the department, that may continue to operate under a contract with the department or a managed health care entity under this part to provide case management services to medicaid clients.

(14) A managed health care entity that provides written notice pursuant to subsection (5)(c) to an enrollee of medicaid-covered services available from another provider is responsible for payment for those services by another provider.

(15) A managed health care entity may not begin operation before the approval of any necessary federal waivers and the completion of the review of an application submitted to the department. The department may charge the applicant an application review fee for the department's actual cost of review of the application. The fee must be adopted by rule by the

department. Fees collected by the department must be deposited in an account in the special revenue fund to be used by the department to defray the cost of application review.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 351, L. 2011.

53-6-706. Requirements relating to enrollees. (1) All individuals enrolled in the program must be provided with a full written explanation of all fee-for-service and managed health care plan options as provided by rule. The department shall provide to enrollees, upon enrollment in the program and at least annually, notice of the process for requesting an appeal under the department's administrative appeal procedures. The department shall maintain a toll-free telephone number for program enrollees' use in reporting problems with managed health care entities.

(2) If an individual becomes eligible for participation in the program while the individual s hospitalized, the department may, but is not required to, enroll the individual in the program prior to the individual's discharge from the hospital. This subsection does not apply to a newborn nfant whose mother is enrolled in the program.

(3) The department shall, by rule, establish rates for managed health care entities that:

(a) are in accordance with federal requirements and with the department's current payment system;

(b) take into account any difference of cost to provide health care to different populations based on age and eligibility category. The rates for managed health care entities must be determined on a capitated basis.

(c) are based on treatment settings reasonably available to enrollees.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 577, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-707. Payment reductions and adjustments — freedom to contract. (1) The department shall by rule establish a method to reduce its payments to managed health care entities to take the following into consideration:

(a) any adjustment payments paid to health care facilities under subsection (2)(b) to the extent that those payments or any part of those payments have been taken into account in establishing capitated rates under 53-6-705; and

(b) the implementation of methodologies to limit financial liability for managed health care entities under 53-6-705.

(2) For key services provided by a hospital or nursing facility that contracts with an entity, adjustment payments that are not included in capitated rates must be paid directly to the hospital or nursing facility by the department. Adjustment payments include but are not limited to:

(a) adjustment payments to disproportionate share hospitals as defined by department rule;

(b) perinatal center payments;

(c) payments for direct medical education, indirect medical education, and certified registered nurse anesthetists;

(d) supplemental medicaid payments to hospitals made pursuant to 53-6-149; and

(e) supplemental medicaid payments to nursing facilities made pursuant to 15-60-211.

(3) For any hospital or nursing facility eligible for the adjustment payments described in this section, the department shall maintain, through the period ending June 30, 1996, reimbursement levels in accordance with statutes and rules in effect at the time the payments are made.

(4) The department may not assign an existing agreement with a medicaid provider to a managed health care entity. The managed health care entity shall enter into a new agreement with a provider in order for the provider to be considered a part of the managed health care entity's network of providers.

(5) This part does not limit or otherwise impair the authority of the department to enter into a contract, negotiated pursuant to this part, with a managed health care entity, including a health maintenance organization, that provides for termination or nonrenewal of the contract without cause upon notice as provided in the contract and without a hearing. If available funds are not sufficient to provide medical assistance for all eligible persons, the department may set

priorities to limit, reduce, or otherwise curtail the amount, scope, or duration of the medica services made available under the Montana medicaid program and managed care.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 351, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-6-708. Waiver. The department may seek and obtain any necessary authorizatio provided under federal law to implement the program, including the waiver of any federa statutes or regulations. The department may not expand eligibility requirements unles authorized by the legislature. The department may seek a waiver of the federal requiremen that the combined membership of medicare and medicaid enrollees in a managed health car entity may not exceed 75% of the managed health care entity's total enrollment. The departmen may not seek a waiver of the inpatient hospital reimbursement methodology in 42 U.S.C 1396a(a)(13) even if the federal agency responsible for administering Title XIX determines tha 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(13) applies to managed health care systems.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 239, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

53-6-709. Legislative auditor — oversight. (1) In order to prevent, detect, and eliminat fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct and to determine that the progran is administered fairly and effectively, the legislative auditor shall oversee the managed car covered by this part.

(2) A medical provider may not be compelled to provide individual medical records o patients unless the records are provided in accordance with the provisions of the Governmen Health Care Information Act. State and local governmental agencies shall provide the requestec information, assistance, or cooperation.

(3) All activities conducted by the legislative auditor must be conducted in a manner tha ensures the preservation of evidence for use in criminal prosecutions. The legislative audito may present for prosecution the findings of any activity to the office of the attorney general or tc United States attorneys in Montana.

(4) The legislative auditor shall report all convictions, terminations, and suspension taken against vendors, contractors, and health care providers to the department and to an agency responsible for licensing or regulating those persons or entities.

(5) The legislative auditor shall make periodic reports, findings, and recommendation regarding its oversight activities authorized by this section.

(6) This part does not limit investigations by the department that may otherwis be required by law or that may be necessary in the department's capacity as the centra administrative authority responsible for administration of public aid programs in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 502, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 577, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

The Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.

Government Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 6.

53-6-710. Advisory council — duties. (1) There is an advisory council to review request for proposals issued and contracts proposed to be awarded under this part.

(2) The advisory council consists of seven members appointed as follows:

(a) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, at least one of whom must be a health care provider;

(b) two members appointed by the president of the senate, at least one of whom must be a health care provider; and

(c) three members appointed by the governor, at least one of whom must be a health care provider.

(3) Members shall serve staggered, 3-year terms.

(4) When the department proposes to seek a medicaid waiver for managed care, the council shall conduct the following activities before the department issues a request for proposal and after it has selected a vendor but before a contract is awarded:

(a) hold a public hearing in the geographic area that would be affected by the program or contract in order to:

(i) educate medicaid recipients, health care providers, and the public residing in the area about the provisions of the proposed program or contract and the consumer's options; and

(ii) accept public comment about the proposed program or contract;

(b) submit a report if managed care is in place of its findings related to the public comment process to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210, the legislative auditor's office, and the department.

(5) The council shall meet according to a schedule adopted by a majority vote of the council.

(6) The council is attached to the department for administrative purposes only, and members are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

53-6-711. Requests for proposals and contracts — review requirements — public notice and comment. (1) Before the department issues a request for proposals or awards a contract for the provision of services through a managed health care entity:

(a) the department shall meet the public notice, legislative presentation, and public comment requirements of 53-2-215;

(b) the legislative auditor's office and the state auditor's office, in consultation with the department, shall analyze the request for proposal and the proposed contract for:

(i) actuarial soundness;

(ii) network adequacy as provided for in Title 33, chapter 36, part 2; and

(iii) consumer choice; and

(c) within 60 days of receipt of the request for proposal and proposed contract, the legislative auditor's office and state auditor's office shall complete their analyses and publish the findings of their analyses.

(2) (a) Before the department may award a contract, it shall seek an independent analysis to verify that the potential vendor is able to comply with the goals of the proposed managed care program.

(b) The vendor shall pay the costs of the analysis.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 351, L. 2011.**

Part 8
Long-Term Care Insurance Partnerships

Part Cross-References

Use of medical care savings account for purchase of long-term care insurance, 15-61-202, 15-61-204.

Long-Term Care Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 22, part 11.

53-6-801. Purpose. The purpose of this part and the long-term care insurance partnerships authorized by this part is to encourage individuals to purchase long-term care insurance policies or certificates that will provide for their potential long-term care needs, thereby reducing the amount of money spent by the state of Montana for long-term care under the Montana medicaid program. The purpose of this part is also to provide an incentive for the purchase of the policies or certificates by providing individuals some protection from the requirement that they spend down their resources in order to qualify for medical assistance benefits in the form of payment for long-term care.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1997.**

53-6-802. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Certificate" means a certificate as defined in 33-22-1107.

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance provided for in 2-15-1903.

(3) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(4) "Dollar-for-dollar model" means a program in which the amount of resources that is disregarded in determining medical assistance eligibility for an individual is increased by $1 for each dollar paid by an insurer to an insured under the insured's long-term care insurance policy or certificate.

(5) "Long-term care insurance" means an insurance policy or certificate that provides coverage for medically necessary services in a long-term care facility, as defined in 50-5-101, or in the insured's home.

(6) "Long-term care insurance partnership" or "partnership" means a program o collaboration between the commissioner, the department, insurers, and their insureds t create an incentive, through the issuance of insurance policies or certificates certified by th commissioner and the department, for individuals to purchase long-term care insurance.

(7) "Policy" means a policy as defined in 33-22-1107.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1997.**

53-6-803. Long-term care insurance partnerships authorized. (1) The commissione and the department may in their discretion establish long-term care insurance partnerships a provided for in federal law under 42 U.S.C. 1396p or if allowed by a waiver of federal law unde section 1115 of Title XI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1315.

(2) The department may in its discretion collaborate with private insurers to implemen long-term care insurance partnerships that will allow individuals who have resources in exces of the resource limit for receipt of medical assistance under the Montana medicaid program t receive medical assistance benefits if those individuals are eligible for or require the level of car provided by a long-term care facility and meet the other program requirements in accordanc with federal law or an approved waiver in order to facilitate the enrollment of persons int long-term care insurance plans.

(3) Under partnerships created pursuant to this section, individuals may qualify fo special treatment of their resources if they purchase a long-term care insurance policy o certificate certified by the commissioner and the department as provided in 53-6-804 prior t becoming eligible for medical assistance benefits. The department may modify eligibility an other medicaid requirements by administrative rule as provided in 53-6-805 and as allowed b state and federal law to encourage individuals to maintain long-term care insurance.

(4) The long-term care insurance partnerships may in the department's discretion b based on a dollar-for-dollar model or any other model that is cost-neutral.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 2005.**

53-6-804. Rulemaking and certification of policies by commissioner and department. (1) The commissioner and the department may by rule adopt requirements fo certification of long-term care insurance policies and certificates. These requirements ma include but are not limited to:

(a) minimum levels and durations of benefits;
(b) mandatory inflation protection;
(c) mandatory home and community care coverage;
(d) case management; and
(e) procedures for the insured to appeal a denial of benefits.

(2) The commissioner and the department shall review long-term care insurance policie and certificates to determine whether policies and certificates meet the requirements fo certification pursuant to this section.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 195, L. 1997.**

53-6-805. Department to make rules. The department shall adopt rules necessary fo the administration of the partnerships, including but not limited to rules concerning:

(1) the populations and age groups eligible to have resources disregarded for the purpose of qualification for medical assistance benefits under the Montana medicaid program;

(2) the level of care that an individual requires in order to have resources disregarded i determining eligibility for medical assistance benefits;

(3) the amount and type of resources of an individual that will be disregarded in determining eligibility for medical assistance benefits;

(4) requirements for the disregard of resources of an individual in determining eligibility for medical assistance benefits; and

(5) the exemption of protected resources from a lien provided in 53-6-171 through 53-6-18 for the recovery of medical assistance benefits paid by the state.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 195, L. 1997.**

Part 9
Medicaid Medical Savings Account Pilot Project (Terminated)

53-6-901. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-902. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-903. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-904. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-905. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-906. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-907. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-908. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-909. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

53-6-910. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 380, L. 1997.**

Part 10
Prescription Drug Plus Discount Program

53-6-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 22.

(2) "Discounted price" means a price set by the department by rule pursuant to 53-6-1002.

(3) "Manufacturer" means a manufacturer of prescription drugs and includes a subsidiary or affiliate of a manufacturer.

(4) "Participating retail pharmacy" means a retail pharmacy located in this state or another business licensed to dispense prescription drugs in this state that is medicaid-approved.

(5) "Program" means the prescription drug plus discount program provided for in 53-6-1002.

(6) "Secondary discounted price" means the discounted price less any further discounts funded by manufacturer rebates for medication purchased by participants in the program.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 551, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 287, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 19, L. 2011.**

53-6-1002. Prescription drug plus discount program — rules. (1) The department may provide for a prescription drug plus discount program offering prescription drugs at a discounted price to qualified individuals whose income is at a level set by the department at or below 250% of the federal poverty level and who meet the requirements in 53-6-1003.

(2) There is a prescription drug plus discount program rebate account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. All money received by the state as rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers for the program must be deposited in the account. The money in the account, which is administered by the department, must be used to expand prescription drug benefits to qualified individuals. Interest on account balances accrues to the account. The purpose of the account is to:

(a) reimburse participating retail pharmacies for the secondary discounted price; and

(b) reimburse the department for contracted services, administrative costs, associated computer costs, professional fees paid to participating retail pharmacies, pharmacy benefit administrators, and other reasonable program costs.

(3) The department shall provide for sufficient personnel to ensure efficient administration of the program. The extent and the magnitude of the program must be determined by the department on the basis of the calculated need of the recipient population and available funds. The department may not spend more on this program than is available through appropriations, federal or other grants, and other established and committed funding sources. The department may accept, for the purposes of carrying out this program, federal funds appropriated under any federal law relating to the furnishing of free or low-cost drugs to disadvantaged, elderly, and disabled individuals, may take action that is necessary for the purposes of carrying out that federal law, and may accept from any other agency of government, individual, group, or corporation funds that may be available to carry out this part.

(4) The department may adopt rules relating to the conduct of this program.

(5) The department shall, if the department determines that sufficient funds are available, adopt rules to establish the secondary discounted price to be charged to participants in the program. The department may establish a secondary discounted price to encourage the use of generic drugs over higher-cost brand-name drugs.

(6) The department shall establish by rule eligibility based upon the applicant's family income as provided in 53-6-1003. The total income may not exceed 250% of the federal poverty level. The department may adopt rules defining income. In establishing eligibility based upon income, the department shall take into account the amount of funding available for the program. The department shall issue enrollment materials to eligible individuals.

(7) Establishment of the program is contingent upon compliance with all applicable federal laws. The department may adopt rules necessary to implement conditions required by federal law.

(8) If program costs are expected to exceed the legislative authorization for the program, the department shall adjust discounted prices or eligibility standards to maintain the program within the available funding.

(9) Participation in the program by a pharmacy or a pharmaceutical manufacturer is voluntary.

(10) (a) The department may not contract with either an in-state or out-of-state mail service pharmacy, as defined in 37-7-702, for the purposes of the program for at least 1 year after persons eligible for the program have begun to purchase drugs through the program. At that time, the department shall evaluate the number of pharmacies within the state providing prescription drugs as part of the program.

(b) If the department determines that there are insufficient pharmacies participating in the program to allow reasonable access to persons qualified to purchase prescription drugs through the program, it may, after the evaluation provided for in subsection (10)(a), use one or more in-state or out-of-state mail service pharmacies, or both, for the purposes of the program.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 551, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 287, L. 2005.**

53-6-1003. Eligibility — income determination. To be eligible for the program, an individual must:

(1) reside in a household with an income level less than or equal to 250% of the federal poverty guidelines as adopted by the U.S. department of health and human services; and

(2) lack prescription drug coverage or shall provide documentation that the individual has exceeded the coverage of the individual's prescription drug benefits.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 551, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 287, L. 2005.**

53-6-1004. State pharmacy access program. (1) The department shall administer a pharmacy access prescription drug benefit program that contributes to the cost of the premium and, optionally, to the cost of the deductible for the Part D medicare prescription drug benefit as established in Title I of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

(2) An individual is eligible for the pharmacy access program if the individual:

(a) has a family income, as adopted by rule, of up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines set annually by the U.S. department of health and human services and is not eligible for federal low-income assistance under Part D;

(b) submits proof of enrollment in a prescription drug plan for the Part D medicare benefit.

(3) The department shall establish by rule eligibility based upon the applicant's family income within the range provided in subsection (2). The department may adopt rules defining income. In establishing eligibility based upon income, the department shall take into account the amount of funding available for the program.

(4) The department shall set an amount of benefit for the premium and may optionally set a portion of the deductible by rule based on the numbers enrolled and the appropriation.

(5) The department shall open the enrollment of the pharmacy access program at the same time as enrollment commences for the medicare Part D program.

(6) If the department determines that there are excess funds for the pharmacy access program, it may use the funds for the program provided for in 53-6-1002.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 2005.

53-6-1005. Department administration — pharmacy access. The department shall administer the pharmacy access program. The department shall provide for outreach and enrollment in the pharmacy access program. The department shall integrate the enrollment and outreach procedures with other services provided to individuals and families eligible for other related programs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

53-6-1006. Prescription drug consumer information and technical assistance program — education outreach for consumers and professionals. (1) There is a prescription drug consumer information and technical assistance program in the department to provide Montana residents with advice on the prudent use of prescription drugs and how to access government and private prescription drug programs and discounts. The program must include consultation by licensed pharmacists with individuals on how to avoid dangerous drug interactions and provide for substitution of more cost-effective drugs with approval by the prescribing health care professional.

(2) The department shall create educational resources, including a website, concerning the costs and benefits of various drugs to inform consumers and medical practitioners on clinically effective and cost-conscious prescription drugs.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 287, L. 2005.

53-6-1007 through 53-6-1009 reserved.

53-6-1010. Specifications for administration of program. (1) The department shall adopt specifications for the administration and management of the program. Specifications may include but are not limited to program objectives, accounting and handling practices, supervisory authority, and an evaluation methodology.

(2) Information disclosed by manufacturers during negotiations and all terms and conditions negotiated between the director and manufacturers and all information requested or required under the program are public information, except for information that the department determines is proprietary information.

(3) The department may use a formulary or other committee to determine preferred drug lists for department programs. The department shall include a representative of consumers on any formulary committee or committee to determine preferred drug lists for purchase by the department or reimbursement of costs. Any formulary or preferred drug list must be based on objective clinical data on safety and effectiveness. If two or more drugs are found to be equally effective and safe for the treatment of the same medical condition, the drug available at the lowest net price, inclusive of discounts and rebates, must be placed on the list. Other drugs for treating the same medical condition may be added to the list if they are therapeutically equivalent and the department determines them to be cost-effective.

(4) The department may negotiate rebates from the prescription drug manufacturers for drugs that will be on any preferred drug list. The department may negotiate price discounts with prescription drug manufacturers for any state-purchased health care programs, including medicaid, the state children's health insurance program, and the program provided for in 53-6-1002.

(5) The department may use the access restrictions and a preferred drug list to negotiate for the most favorable discount prices and rebates for the program.

(6) The department may participate in multistate purchasing pool initiatives for the benefit of the program.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 551, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 287, L. 2005.

53-6-1011. Appeals. An eligibility determination made by the department based on information provided by the department of revenue is final, subject to appeal in accordance with the appeal process established in the medicaid program.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 551, L. 2003.

53-6-1012. Obligations of department. The department shall establish simplified procedures for determining eligibility and issuing Montana prescription enrollment cards to qualified individuals under 53-6-1002 and shall undertake outreach efforts to build public awareness of the program and maximize enrollment of qualified individuals. The department may adjust the requirements and terms of the program to accommodate any new federally funded prescription drug programs.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 551, L. 2003.

53-6-1013. Contracting. The department may contract for the administration of any components of the program, including but not limited to outreach, eligibility, claims, administration, price and rebate negotiations, and drug rebate recovery and redistribution. Any contract to administer any program component must prohibit the contractor from receiving any compensation or other benefit from any drug manufacturer, labeler, or distributor participating in the medicaid or prescription drug plus discount programs.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 551, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 287, L. 2005.

53-6-1014 through 53-6-1019 reserved.

53-6-1020. Contingency on expenditure. This part may not be construed to require implementation or ongoing operation of the program under 53-6-1201(3)(b) without a line item appropriation in the general appropriations bill included for that purpose.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 287, L. 2005.

Part 11
Prevention and Stabilization Account

53-6-1101. Prevention and stabilization account — allocation of proceeds. (1) There is a prevention and stabilization account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. Money in the account must be used by the department of public health and human services to finance, administer, and provide health and human services.

(2) (a) Funds in the prevention and stabilization account must be used for the following programs in order of priority:

(i) prescription drugs for adults with a serious and disabling mental illness eligible for programs initiated pursuant to 53-21-702(2) and (3);

(ii) child care for low-income families;

(iii) the Montana initiative for the abatement of mortality in infants administered pursuant to 50-19-301;

(iv) independent living;

(v) extended employment;

(vi) child support enforcement state matching funds;

(vii) stabilization of rates for medicaid mental health services;

(viii) medicaid hospice services;

(ix) home health therapy services;

(x) poison control; and

(xi) AIDS funds.

(b) Funds remaining after allocations to the priorities in subsection (2)(a) may be expended for other programs as directed in 17-6-606(1).

(c) Appropriations from the prevention and stabilization account for programs listed in subsection (2)(a) are restricted for the use specified and may not be transferred to other programs pursuant to 17-7-139.

History: (1)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 531, L. 2003; en. Sec. 2, Ch. 608, L. 2003.

Part 12
Health and Medicaid Initiatives Account

53-6-1201. Special revenue fund — health and medicaid initiatives. (1) There is a health and medicaid initiatives account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102. This account is to be administered by the department of public health and human services.

(2) There must be deposited in the account:

(a) money from cigarette taxes deposited under 16-11-119(2)(c);

(b) money from taxes on tobacco products other than cigarettes deposited under 16-11-119(4)(b); and

(c) any interest and income earned on the account.

(3) This account may be used only to provide funding for:

(a) the state funds necessary to take full advantage of available federal matching funds in order to administer the plan and maximize enrollment of eligible children under the healthy Montana kids plan, provided for under Title 53, chapter 4, part 11, and to provide outreach to the eligible children;

(b) a new need-based prescription drug program established by the legislature for children, seniors, chronically ill, and disabled persons that does not supplant similar services provided under any existing program;

(c) increased medicaid services and medicaid provider rates. The increased revenue is intended to increase medicaid services and medicaid provider rates and not to supplant the general fund in the trended traditional level of appropriation for medicaid services and medicaid provider rates.

(d) an offset to loss of revenue to the general fund as a result of new tax credits; and

(e) grants to schools for suicide prevention activities, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017.

(4) (a) On or before July 1, the budget director shall calculate a balance required to sustain each program in subsection (3) for each fiscal year of the biennium. If the budget director certifies that the reserve balance will be sufficient, then the agencies may expend the revenue for the programs as appropriated. If the budget director determines that the reserve balance of the revenue will not support the level of appropriation, the budget director shall notify each agency. Upon receipt of the notification, the agency shall adjust the operating budget for the program to reflect the available revenue as determined by the budget director.

(b) Until the programs or credits described in subsections (3)(b) and (3)(d) are established, the funding must be used exclusively for the purposes described in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(c).

(5) The phrase "trended traditional level of appropriation", as used in subsection (3)(c), means the appropriation amounts, including supplemental appropriations, as those amounts were set based on eligibility standards, services authorized, and payment amount during the past five biennial budgets.

(6) The department of public health and human services may adopt rules to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 7, I.M. No. 149, approved Nov. 2, 2004; amd. Secs. 9, 13, Ch. 287, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 511, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 595, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 482, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 461, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 77, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 151, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 233, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 50, I.M. No. 190, approved Nov. 3, 2020; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

Part 13
Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act

Part Compiler's Comments

Applicability: Section 47, Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "An individual enrolled in the expanded medicaid program provided for in Title 53, chapter 6, part 13, on the date the centers for medicare and medicaid services approves a waiver authorizing community engagement requirements shall comply with the community engagement requirements of [this act] within 180 days of the date the department of public health and human services has implemented the community engagement requirements."

53-6-1301. *(Temporary)* **Short title.** This part, along with Title 39, chapter 12, and 25-3-106, may be cited as the "Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act". *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 38, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 2015.

53-6-1302. *(Temporary)* **Montana HELP Act program — legislative findings and purpose.** (1) There is a Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership Act program established through a collaborative effort of the department of public health and human services and the department of labor and industry to:

(a) provide coverage of health care services for low-income Montanans;

(b) improve the readiness of program participants to enter the workforce or obtain better-paying jobs; and

(c) reduce the dependence of Montanans on public assistance programs.

(2) The legislature finds that improving the delivery of health care services to Montanans requires state government, health care providers, patient advocates, and other parties interested in high-quality, affordable health care to collaborate in order to:

(a) increase the availability of high-quality health care to Montanans;

(b) provide greater value for the tax dollars spent on the Montana medicaid program;

(c) reduce health care costs;

(d) provide incentives that encourage Montanans to take greater responsibility for thei personal health;

(e) boost Montana's economy by reducing the costs of uncompensated care; and

(f) reduce or minimize the shifting of payment for unreimbursed health care costs t patients with health insurance.

(3) The legislature further finds that providing greater value for the dollars spent on th medicaid program requires considering options for delivering services in a more efficient an cost-effective manner, including but not limited to:

(a) offering incentives to encourage health care providers to achieve measurabl performance outcomes;

(b) improving the coordination of care among health care providers who participate in th medicaid program;

(c) reducing preventable hospital readmissions; and

(d) exploring methods of medicaid payment that promote quality of care and efficiencies.

(4) The legislature further finds that providing necessary job training, skill development or supportive services and establishing community engagement requirements for individual who need assistance with health care costs could help those individuals obtain employmen that has health care coverage benefits or that would allow them to purchase their own healt insurance coverage.

(5) The legislature further finds that:

(a) it is important to implement additional fraud, waste, and abuse safeguards to protec and preserve the integrity of the medicaid program and the unemployment insurance progra for individuals who qualify for the programs; and

(b) state policymakers have an interest in testing the effectiveness of wellness incentive in order to collect and analyze information about the correlation between wellness incentive and health status.

(6) The purposes of the act are to:

(a) modify and enhance Montana's health care delivery system to provide access t high-quality, affordable health care for all Montana citizens; and

(b) provide low-income Montanans with opportunities to improve their readiness for wor or to obtain higher-paying jobs.

(7) The department of labor and industry and the department of public health and huma services shall maximize the use of existing resources in administering the program. *(Terminate June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 415, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 547, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final dispositio finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this ac terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1303. *(Temporary)* **Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community engagement" means participation in the activities specified in 53-6-1308 as a means to improve a program participant's well-being and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "HELP Act" or "act" means the Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership Act provided for in Title 39, chapter 12, and this part.

(4) "Member" means an individual enrolled in the Montana medicaid program pursuant to 53-6-131 or receiving medicaid-funded services pursuant to 53-6-1304.

(5) "Program participant" or "participant" means an individual enrolled in the Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership Act program established in Title 39, chapter 12, and this part. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1304. *(Temporary)* **Montana HELP Act program — eligibility for coverage of health care services — exceptions.** (1) An individual is eligible for coverage of health care services provided pursuant to this part if the individual meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII).

(2) The department may serve individuals who are eligible for medicaid-funded services pursuant to this part through the medical assistance program established in Title 53, chapter 6, part 1, if the individuals would be served more appropriately because the individuals:

(a) have exceptional health care needs, including but not limited to medical, mental health, or developmental conditions;

(b) live in a geographical area, including an Indian reservation, that would not be effectively or efficiently served through this part;

(c) need continuity of care that would not be available or cost-effective through this part;

(d) are exempt under the waiver implementing this part as of July 1, 2019; or

(e) are otherwise exempt under federal law. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1305. *(Temporary)* **Montana HELP Act program — delivery of health care services — third-party administrator — rulemaking.** (1) The department may contract as provided in Title 18, chapter 4, with one or more third-party administrators to assist in administering the delivery of health care services to members eligible under 53-6-1304, including but not limited to:

(a) establishing networks of health care providers;

(b) paying claims submitted by health care providers;

(c) collecting the premiums provided for in 53-6-1307;

(d) coordinating care;

(e) helping to administer the program; and

(f) helping to administer the medicaid program reforms as specified in 53-6-1311.

(2) If the department decides to contract with a third-party administrator, the department shall determine the basic health care services to be provided through the arrangement with the third-party administrator.

(3) (a) The department may exempt certain individuals who are eligible for medicaid-funded services pursuant to 53-6-1304 from receiving health care services through an arrangement with a third-party administrator if the individuals would be served more appropriately through the medical assistance program established in Title 53, chapter 6, part 1.

(b) If the department contracts with a third-party administrator, the department shall:

(i) adopt rules establishing criteria for determining whether a member is exempt from receiving health care services through an arrangement with the third-party administrator;

(ii) provide coverage for exempted individuals through the medical assistance program established in Title 53, chapter 6, part 1; and

(iii) for members participating in the arrangement with a third-party administrator, directly cover any service required under federal or state law that is not available through the arrangement with the third-party administrator.

(4) The department may contract with a third-party administrator for the services allowed under subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f) only upon receipt of a federal waiver allowing a third-party administrator to provide services in accordance with this part. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1306. *(Temporary)* **Prohibition on copayments.** The department may not require a program participant to make a copayment, to pay a coinsurance amount, or to meet a deductible amount for any service covered under this part. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final dispositio finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislatur has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whethe [this act] should continue."

53-6-1307. *(Temporary)* **Premiums — collection of overdue premiums — nonpayment as voluntary disenrollment — reenrollment — exemptions.** (1) (a) A program participant shall pay an annual premium, billed monthly, equal to a percentage o the participant's modified adjusted gross income as determined in accordance with 42 U.S.C 1396a(e)(14). Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the premiums must:

(i) be set at 2% of a participant's income in the first 2 years the participant receives coverage under this part; and

(ii) increase by 0.5% in each subsequent year that a participant receives coverage, up to a maximum of 4% of the participant's income.

(b) A program participant who is exempt from the community engagement requirement as allowed under 53-6-1308 is exempt from the premium increases in subsection (1)(a)(ii).

(c) Premiums paid pursuant to this section must be deposited in the Montana HELP Ac special revenue account provided for in 53-6-1315.

(2) Within 30 days of a participant's failure to make a required payment, the departmen or a third-party administrator administering the program, if any, shall notify the participan that payment is overdue and that all overdue premiums must be paid within 90 days of the dat the notification was sent.

(3) (a) If a participant with an income of 100% of the federal poverty level or less fails t make payment for overdue premiums, the department shall provide notice to the department o revenue of the participant's failure to pay. The department of revenue shall collect the amoun

due for nonpayment by assessing the amount against the participant's annual income tax in accordance with Title 15, chapters 1 and 30.

(b) The debt remains until paid and may be collected through assessments against future ncome tax returns or through a civil action initiated by the state.

(4) If a participant with an income of more than 100% but not more than 138% of the federal poverty level fails to make the overdue payments within 90 days of the date the notification was sent, the department shall:

(a) follow the procedure established in subsection (3) for collection of the unpaid premiums; and

(b) consider the failure to pay to be a voluntary disenrollment from the program. The department may reenroll a participant in the program upon payment of the total amount of overdue payments.

(5) If a participant who has failed to pay the premiums does not indicate that the participant no longer wishes to participate in the program, the department may reenroll the person in the program when the department of revenue assesses the unpaid premium through the participant's income taxes.

(6) Participants who meet two of the following criteria are not subject to the voluntary disenrollment provisions of this section:

(a) discharge from United States military service within the previous 12 months;

(b) enrollment for credit in any Montana university system unit, a tribal college, or any other accredited college within Montana offering at least an associate degree, subject to the provisions of subsection (7);

(c) participation in a workforce program or activity established under Title 39, chapter 12; or

(d) participation in any of the following healthy behavior plans developed by a health care provider or third-party administrator, if any, or approved by the department:

(i) a medicaid health home;

(ii) a patient-centered medical home;

(iii) a cardiovascular disease, obesity, or diabetes prevention program;

(iv) a program restricting the participant to obtaining primary care services from a designated provider and obtaining prescriptions from a designated pharmacy;

(v) a medicaid primary care case management program established by the department;

(vi) a tobacco use prevention or cessation program;

(vii) a medicaid waiver program providing coverage for family planning services;

(viii) a substance abuse treatment program; or

(ix) a care coordination or health improvement plan administered by the third-party administrator.

(7) A participant seeking an exemption under subsection (6) is not eligible for the education exemption provided for in subsection (6)(b) for more than 4 years. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 45, Ch. 415, L. 2019; terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

53-6-1307. *(Temporary — effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Premiums — collection of overdue premiums — nonpayment as voluntary disenrollment — reenrollment — exemptions.** (1) (a) A program participant shall pay an annual premium, billed monthly, equal to 2% of the participant's income as determined in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(14).

(b) Premiums paid pursuant to this section must be deposited in the general fund.

(2) Within 30 days of a participant's failure to make a required payment, the department or a third-party administrator administering the program, if any, shall notify the participant that payment is overdue and that all overdue premiums must be paid within 90 days of the date the notification was sent.

(3) (a) If a participant with an income of 100% of the federal poverty level or less fails to make payment for overdue premiums, the department shall provide notice to the department of revenue of the participant's failure to pay. The department of revenue shall collect the amount due for nonpayment by assessing the amount against the participant's annual income tax in accordance with Title 15, chapters 1 and 30.

(b) The debt remains until paid and may be collected through assessments against future income tax returns or through a civil action initiated by the state.

(4) If a participant with an income of more than 100% but not more than 138% of the federal poverty level fails to make the overdue payments within 90 days of the date the notification was sent, the department shall:

(a) follow the procedure established in subsection (3) for collection of the unpaid premiums; and

(b) consider the failure to pay to be a voluntary disenrollment from the program. The department may reenroll a participant in the program upon payment of the total amount of overdue payments.

(5) If a participant who has failed to pay the premiums does not indicate that the participant no longer wishes to participate in the program, the department may reenroll the person in the program when the department of revenue assesses the unpaid premium through the participant's income taxes.

(6) Participants who meet two of the following criteria are not subject to the voluntary disenrollment provisions of this section:

(a) discharge from United States military service within the previous 12 months;

(b) enrollment for credit in any Montana university system unit, a tribal college, or any other accredited college within Montana offering at least an associate degree, subject to the provisions of subsection (7);

(c) participation in a workforce program or activity established under Title 39, chapter 12; or

(d) participation in any of the following healthy behavior plans developed by a health care provider or third-party administrator, if any, or approved by the department:

(i) a medicaid health home;

(ii) a patient-centered medical home;

(iii) a cardiovascular disease, obesity, or diabetes prevention program;

(iv) a program restricting the participant to obtaining primary care services from a designated provider and obtaining prescriptions from a designated pharmacy;

(v) a medicaid primary care case management program established by the department;

(vi) a tobacco use prevention or cessation program;

(vii) a medicaid waiver program providing coverage for family planning services;

(viii) a substance abuse treatment program; or

(ix) a care coordination or health improvement plan administered by the third-party administrator.

(7) A participant seeking an exemption under subsection (6) is not eligible for the education exemption provided for in subsection (6)(b) for more than 4 years. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 45, Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If the centers for medicare and medicaid services fails to provide any waivers necessary to implement the premium provisions of [section 35(1)], then the amendments to 53-6-1307(1) in [section 35(1)] are void.

(2) The director of the department shall notify the code commissioner of the occurrence of any determination made under this section and the date of the occurrence."

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1308. *(Temporary)* **Community engagement requirements — countable activities — exemptions — self-attestation.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) through (5), an individual receiving coverage under this part shall participate in 80 hours of community engagement activities each month if the individual is at least 19 years of age but no more than 55 years of age.

(2) Time spent in one or more of the following activities may be counted toward the monthly requirement for community engagement:

(a) employment;

(b) work readiness or workforce training activities;
(c) secondary, postsecondary, or vocational education;
(d) substance abuse education or substance use disorder treatment;
(e) other work or community engagement activities that promote work or work readiness or advance the health purpose of the medicaid program;
(f) a community service or volunteer opportunity; or
(g) any other activity required by the centers for medicare and medicaid services for the purpose of obtaining necessary waivers under this part.

(3) A program participant is exempt from the requirements of this section if the participant is:
(a) medically frail as defined in 42 CFR 440.315;
(b) blind or disabled;
(c) pregnant;
(d) experiencing an acute medical condition requiring immediate medical treatment;
(e) mentally or physically unable to work;
(f) a primary caregiver for a person who is unable to provide self-care;
(g) a foster parent;
(h) a full-time student in a secondary school;
(i) a student enrolled in the equivalent of at least six credits in a postsecondary or vocational institution;
(j) participating in or exempt from the work requirements of the temporary assistance for needy families program or the supplemental nutrition assistance program;
(k) under supervision of the department of corrections, a county jail, or another entity as directed by a court, the department of corrections, or the board of pardons and parole;
(l) experiencing chronic homelessness;
(m) a victim of domestic violence as defined by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.;
(n) living in an area with a high-poverty designation;
(o) a member of an entity subject to the fee provided for in 15-30-2660(3); or
(p) otherwise exempt under federal law.

(4) A program participant is exempt from the requirements of this section if the department determines that the participant's income exceeds an amount equal to the average of 80 hours per month multiplied by the minimum wage.

(5) A program participant is exempt from the requirements of this section in any reporting period in which the participant:
(a) is hospitalized or caring for an immediate family member who has been hospitalized;
(b) has a documented serious illness or incapacity or is caring for an immediate family member with a documented serious illness or incapacity; or
(c) is impacted by a catastrophic event or hardship as defined by the department by rule that prevents the participant from complying with the community engagement requirements of this section.

(6) The department may determine, through use of available administrative data, that a program participant:
(a) meets the community engagement requirements of this section; or
(b) is exempt from meeting the community engagement requirements. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 2019.**

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1309. *(Temporary)* **Community engagement — reporting — suspension — audit.** (1) The department shall adopt rules establishing:
(a) requirements for reporting community engagement requirements;

(b) requirements for obtaining an exemption from the community engagement requirements as allowed under 53-6-1308; and

(c) a program to audit information provided by program participants to the department to ensure compliance with the requirements of 53-6-1308.

(2) The department shall notify a program participant who is not in compliance with the community engagement requirements that:

(a) the participant has 180 days to come into compliance; and

(b) failure to comply within the 180-day period will be considered a voluntary suspension from the program unless the participant attests and the department confirms that the participant is exempt from the community engagement requirements as allowed under 53-6-1308.

(3) A participant who is suspended from the program for noncompliance may be reinstated 180 days after the date of suspension or upon a determination by the department that the program participant:

(a) is exempt from the community engagement requirements; or

(b) has been in compliance with the requirements for 30 days. A participant reinstated pursuant to this subsection (3)(b) must remain under heightened monitoring by the department during the remainder of the suspension period.

(4) (a) If suspensions for noncompliance with community engagement requirements reach a level exceeding 5% of program participants, the department shall notify the legislative audit committee. Upon consideration of recommendations by the legislative auditor, the legislative audit committee shall select an independent third-party auditor to conduct an audit of the participants who were subject to suspension using statistically valid methods.

(b) (i) The audit must be completed within 90 days and the report made available to the legislative audit committee.

(ii) If the audit is not completed within 90 days, the department shall immediately cease suspensions until the audit is complete and the legislative audit committee has received the audit report.

(c) If the audit finds that more than 10% of the participants in the audit sample were suspended erroneously, the department shall cease further suspensions until the conclusion of the next general legislative session.

(d) If the audit finds that 10% or fewer of the participants in the audit sample were suspended erroneously, the department shall continue to suspend the enrollment of program participants who fail to meet the community engagement requirements.

(e) The cost of any audit under this section performed at the direction of the legislative audit committee must be paid by the department. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1310. *(Temporary)* **Health risk analysis.** (1) Within 1 year of a program participant's enrollment in the program, the department shall use available claims data and other information collected directly from the participant to assess whether the participant would be better served in a coordinated care or other treatment model approved by the department.

(2) Coordinated care models may include but are not limited to a:

(a) medicaid health home;

(b) patient-centered or advanced primary care medical home;

(c) substance use disorder or mental health treatment or other treatment or prevention programs;

(d) care coordination program;

(e) tribal health improvement program; or

(f) primary care case management arrangement.

(3) The department is not required to complete a separate analysis for a participant who:

(a) is already being served through a coordinated care model listed in subsection (2); or

(b) has received primary care or preventative care services within the last 12 months. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition inds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1311. *(Temporary)* **Medicaid program reforms.** (1) To ensure that the Montana medicaid program is administered efficiently and effectively, the department shall strengthen existing programs that manage the way members obtain approval for medical services and shall establish additional programs designed to reduce costs and improve medical outcomes. The efforts may include but are not limited to:

(a) establishing by rule requirements designed to strengthen the relationship between physicians and members enrolled in existing primary care case management programs;

(b) strengthening data-sharing arrangements with providers to reduce inappropriate use of emergency room services and overuse of other services;

(c) expanding to additional members any existing programs in which case managers and providers work with members with high-risk medical conditions to provide preventive care and advice and to make referrals for medical services;

(d) establishing, within existing funds, one or more pilot programs to improve the health of members, including but not limited to efforts to increase pain management, decrease emergency department overuse, and prevent drug or alcohol addiction or abuse;

(e) reviewing existing primary care case management programs to evaluate and improve their effectiveness; and

(f) engaging members with chronic or other medical or behavioral health conditions in coordinated care models that more closely monitor and manage a member's health to reduce costs or improve medical outcomes. These coordinated care models may include but are not limited to:

(i) patient-centered medical homes;

(ii) accountable care organizations;

(iii) managed care organizations as defined in 42 CFR 438.2;

(iv) health improvement programs;

(v) health homes for behavioral health or other chronic conditions; and

(vi) changes to current service delivery methods.

(2) The department shall work to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in the medicaid program before, during, and after enrollment by enhancing technology system support to provide knowledge-based authentication for verifying the identity and financial status of individuals seeking benefits, including the use of public records to confirm identity and flag changes in demographics.

(3) The department may ask a third-party administrator under contract with the department to assist in efforts undertaken pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) when the activity can appropriately be handled by a third-party administrator.

(4) A care coordination entity used to deliver medicaid services shall meet all state standards for operation, including but not limited to solvency, consumer protection, nondiscrimination, network adequacy, care model design, and fraud and abuse standards. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—secs. 38, 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1312. Health care services payment schedules. (1) The department of corrections and the department of public health and human services shall reimburse health care service for individuals identified in subsection (2) at the rates adopted by the department for the medicaid program under Title 53, chapter 6, part 1, if the health care services are not otherwise covered by medicaid, medicare, a health insurer, or another private or governmental program that pays for health care costs.

(2) This section applies to individuals:

(a) in the custody of the department of corrections; or

(b) who are residents, by commitment or otherwise, of the Montana state hospital, the Montana mental health nursing care center, the Montana chemical dependency center, the state facility at Galen, or the Montana developmental center.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 368, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

53-6-1313. *(Temporary)* **Reduction in federal medical assistance percentage.** If the federal medical assistance percentage for medical services provided to individuals eligible for medicaid-funded services pursuant to 53-6-1304 is set below the levels established in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(y)(1) on the effective date of this section, the continuation of coverage under this part is contingent on:

(1) the appropriation of additional state general fund or other action by the legislature;

(2) the ability of the department to increase premiums assessed under 53-6-1307 to pay the difference; or

(3) a combination of legislative action and premium increases as necessary to provide for the increased state match obligation. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 38, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 368, L. 2015.

53-6-1314. *(Temporary)* **Disenrollment for failure to report change in circumstances.** (1) (a) A program participant shall report to the department a permanent increase in income that would affect the participant's eligibility for the program. The change must be reported within 30 days of the change in income.

(b) A short-term increase in income that is caused by overtime pay or other nonregular payments and that will not be sustained over time does not qualify as a permanent increase in income for the purposes of this section.

(2) Disenrollment may occur only after the state conducts an administrative review and determines the participant is ineligible for medicaid coverage under any eligibility category. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1315. *(Temporary)* **Montana HELP Act special revenue account.** (1) There is a Montana HELP Act account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(2) Money from the following sources must be deposited in the account:

(a) the taxpayer integrity fees provided for in 15-30-2660;

(b) the outpatient hospital utilization fee provided for in 15-66-102(3)(b);

(c) the health service corporation fee provided for in 33-2-714; and

(d) premiums paid by members pursuant to 53-6-1307.

(3) Money in the account must be used to pay for:

(a) the state share of costs, including benefits and administrative costs, of providing health care services under this part; and

(b) grants made under the HELP Act employer grant program provided for in 39-12-106.

(4) Money from the account must be used for the benefits and administrative costs of providing health care services under this part before any general fund is expended on the costs. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

53-6-1316. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 2019; sec. 39, Ch. 415, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 368, L. 2015.

53-6-1317. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 368, L. 2015.

53-6-1318. *(Temporary)* **Rulemaking authority.** (1) The department may adopt rules as necessary to carry out this part.

(2) The department and the department of labor and industry may, in coordination, adopt rules as necessary for the implementation of the employment and reemployment assessments and workforce development activities provided for in Title 39, chapter 12. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 38, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 368, L. 2015.

53-6-1319 through 53-6-1324 reserved.

53-6-1325. *(Temporary)* **Report to legislature.** (1) The department shall report the following information to the legislative finance committee and the children, families, health, and human services interim committee quarterly:

(a) the number of individuals who were determined eligible for medicaid-funded services pursuant to 53-6-1304;

(b) demographic information on program participants;

(c) the average length of time that participants remained eligible for medical assistance;

(d) the number of participants subject to the fees provided for in 15-30-2660 and the total amount of fees collected;

(e) the amount of money deposited in the Montana HELP Act special revenue account, by source of funding;

(f) the level of participant engagement in wellness activities or incentives offered under this part;

(g) the number of participants who took part in community engagement activities, the number whose program participation was suspended for failure to take part in community engagement activities, and the number who were disenrolled from the program for failure to report a change in circumstances;

(h) the number of participants who reduced their dependency on the HELP Act program, either voluntarily or because of increased income levels; and

(i) the total cost of providing services under this part, including related administrative costs.

(2) A compilation of reports received during the interim must be provided to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210. *(Terminates June 30, 2025, on occurrence of contingency—sec. 48, Ch. 415, L. 2019.)*

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 415, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Termination: Section 48(1) and (2), Ch. 415, L. 2019, provided: "(1) If a court of final disposition finds that the community engagement requirements provided for in [section 1] [53-6-1308] are invalid, [this act] terminates June 30, 2025.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that if the contingency provided for in subsection (1) occurs, the legislature has an opportunity to consider issues of program integrity, reform, and cost-effectiveness to determine whether [this act] should continue."

Part 14

Medicaid Overpayment Audits

53-6-1401. Definitions. As used in this part, unless expressly provided otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abuse" means conduct by a provider or other person involving disregard of and an unreasonable failure to conform with the statutes, regulations, and rules governing the medical

assistance program when the disregard or failure results or may result in medical assistance payments to which the provider is not entitled.

(2) "Auditor" means an individual or an entity, its agents, subcontractors, and employees that have contracted with the department to perform overpayment audits with respect to the medicaid program. The term includes a recovery audit contractor.

(3) "Automated review" means a claim review that is made at the system level without a human being reviewing the medical record.

(4) "Claim" means a communication, whether in oral, written, electronic, magnetic, or other form, that is used to claim specific services or items as payable or reimbursable under the medicaid program. The term includes any documents submitted as part of or in support of the claim.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(6) "Document" means an application, claim, form, report, record, writing, or correspondence, whether in written, electronic, magnetic, or other form.

(7) "Extrapolation" means the determination of an unknown value by projecting the results of a review of a sample to the universe from which the sample was drawn.

(8) "Followup audit" means a followup overpayment audit of additional claims data or provider records or both for a particular service code reviewed in an initial overpayment audit after an initial audit has demonstrated a significant error rate with respect to the code to determine whether the provider has complied with applicable medicaid rules, regulations, policies, and agreements.

(9) "Fraud" means conduct or activity prohibited by statute, regulation, or rule involving purposeful or knowing conduct or omission to perform a duty that results in or may result in medicaid payments to which a provider is not entitled. Fraud includes but is not limited to any conduct or omission under the medicaid program that would constitute a criminal offense under Title 45, chapter 6 or 7.

(10) "High-risk provider" means a provider who within the previous 6 years and 3 months:

(a) has either admitted to medicaid fraud or abuse in a written agreement with a governmental agency or has been determined by a final order or judgment of a governmental agency or court to have committed medicaid fraud or abuse; or

(b) has a documented history of a significant error rate that has been sustained over a period of at least 2 years and that multiple documented educational interventions have failed to correct.

(11) "Initial audit" means an initial overpayment audit to examine claims data and provider records or both to determine whether the provider has complied with applicable medicaid rules, regulations, policies, and agreements.

(12) "Medicaid" means the Montana medical assistance program established under Title 53, chapter 6.

(13) (a) "Overpayment audit" means a review or audit by the department or an auditor of claims data, medical claims, or other documents in which a purpose or potential result of the review or audit is an overpayment determination. The term includes an initial audit and a followup audit.

(b) The term does not include a review or audit by the medicaid fraud control unit.

(14) "Overpayment determination" means a determination by the department or an auditor that forms the basis for or results in the department:

(a) partially or completely reducing a medicaid payment to a provider for a claim;

(b) demanding that the provider repay all or a part of a payment for a claim; or

(c) using or applying any other method to recoup, recover, or collect from a provider all or part of a payment for a claim.

(15) "Peer" means a health care provider who is employed by or under contract with the department or an auditor and who:

(a) has substantially the same education and training, provides or has provided substantially the same range of health care services, and has the same license to practice as the provider who is the subject of an overpayment audit; or

(b) is an expert in the medical, dental, mental health, behavioral health, or other health care provider decisionmaking that is at issue in the overpayment audit.

(16) "Provider" means an individual, company, partnership, corporation, institution, facility, or other entity or business association that has enrolled or applied to enroll as a provider of services or items under the medical assistance program established under this chapter.

(17) (a) "Records" means medical, professional, business, or financial information and documents, whether in written, electronic, magnetic, microfilm, or other form:

(i) pertaining to the provision of treatment, care, services, or items to an individual receiving services under the medicaid program;

(ii) pertaining to the income and expenses of the provider; or

(iii) otherwise relating to or pertaining to a determination of eligibility for or entitlement to payment or reimbursement under the medicaid program.

(b) The term includes all such records and documents made and maintained by the provider regardless of whether the records are required by medicaid laws, regulations, rules, or policies.

(18) "Recovery audit contractor" means a medicaid recovery audit contractor selected by the department to perform audits for the purpose of ensuring medicaid program integrity in accordance with 42 CFR, part 455.

(19) "Significant error rate" means previous billing errors greater than 5% of the total lines reviewed.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2017.

53-6-1402. Overpayment audit procedures — provider records — limitations on record requests and reviews — onsite audits. (1) When conducting an overpayment audit, the department or an auditor shall:

(a) allow the provider at least 30 days to comply with a request to provide records;

(b) include in a request for records adequate information to allow the provider to identify the particular records sought;

(c) allow providers to submit the requested records in an electronic format; and

(d) allow reasonable extensions of the 30-day compliance period for good cause.

(2) If an auditor is conducting an overpayment audit and requires the provider to provide records in a nonelectronic format, the auditor shall reimburse the provider for the cost of providing the records.

(3) (a) For an initial overpayment audit, the department or an auditor may request up to 6 months of records from a provider for claims paid by the medicaid program up to 3 years before the request was made.

(b) If the department or an auditor demonstrates a significant error rate, the department or the auditor with the department's approval may request additional records related to the issue under review for purposes of a followup audit.

(c) The 3-year limitation in subsection (3)(a) does not apply to a record request by the department or auditor for purposes of a followup audit but does apply to such a request by a recovery audit contractor.

(4) The department or an auditor may not request records or perform an overpayment audit regarding services that were provided outside the period of time for which providers are required by applicable law to retain records for purposes of the medicaid program.

(5) Except in cases of suspected fraud or criminal conduct, the department or an auditor may not schedule an onsite overpayment audit without first providing written notice at least 10 days in advance of the onsite audit. The department or auditor shall make a good faith effort to establish a mutually agreed-upon date and time for the onsite audit.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 82, L. 2017.

53-6-1403. Extrapolation and statistical sampling prohibited — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2):

(a) in conducting an initial overpayment audit, the department or an auditor may not use statistical sampling extrapolation for automated reviews and may not rely on extrapolation to determine or support the amount of an overpayment determination; and

(b) an overpayment determination must be based on and supported by evidence of an overpayment for each claim.

(2) In an overpayment audit of a high-risk provider or a followup audit of any provider, the department or an auditor may use statistical sampling extrapolation for an automated review or may rely on extrapolation to determine or support the amount of an overpayment determination.

(3) The department or an auditor may use data analysis techniques to identify claims that are most likely to contain overpayments for purposes of selecting providers or claims for overpayment audits.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 82, L. 2017.

53-6-1404. Peer review of overpayment findings. (1) (a) A provider's request for an administrative review of an overpayment determination may include a request for peer review of any clinical or professional judgment upon which the overpayment determination relies. A clinical or professional judgment includes but is not limited to any clinical or professional judgment upon which the provider's evaluation, treatment, records, coding, or billing is based.

(b) The provider's peer review request must identify each clinical or professional judgment to be reviewed and include a statement of the provider's opinion regarding the identified clinical or professional judgment.

(2) If a provider requests peer review, the department shall obtain and consider as part of its administrative review a peer review of each clinical or professional judgment upon which the overpayment determination relied. The department shall mail a copy of the peer review to the provider within 10 days of receipt. The department may not issue its administrative review determination or demand or collect repayment of the alleged overpayment until the department has obtained and considered the peer review.

(3) If at any time during an administrative review, appeal, or other legal proceedings regarding an overpayment determination the department relies on a clinical or professional judgment not identified in the initial notice of overpayment determination and for which a peer review was not previously requested, obtained, or considered, the provider may request in writing that peer review be conducted in accordance with this section. The proceedings must be suspended or stayed until the department has obtained, considered, and responded in writing to the peer review.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 82, L. 2017.

53-6-1405. Audit completion — notice of overpayment determination — opportunity to resubmit claim. (1) The department or an auditor shall conclude an overpayment audit and notify the provider in writing of the audit results, including any overpayment determination, within 90 days of:

(a) the receipt of all records requested in the department's or the auditor's initial record request;

(b) a determination regarding fraud in cases in which the department investigates a credible allegation of fraud; or

(c) the conclusion of an investigation and any related enforcement proceedings if a government agency or entity other than the department is conducting a civil fraud or criminal investigation of the provider and the government agency or entity conducting the investigation determines and notifies the department in writing that providing earlier notification would interfere with or jeopardize the investigation, recovery of a fraudulent overpayment, or criminal prosecution.

(2) A notice of overpayment determination, including any notice of audit results under subsection (1) that includes a notice of overpayment determination, must include a detailed explanation of the overpayment determination, including at a minimum:

(a) a description of the overpayment;

(b) the dollar value of the overpayment;

(c) the specific reason for the overpayment determination;

(d) the specific medical criteria and any clinical and professional judgment upon which the determination is based;

(e) in cases in which an overpayment resulted from incorrect billing rather than a lack of medical necessity or failure to provide the services or items in accordance with applicable requirements, a statement that the provider may submit a new claim or claim adjustment as provided in 53-6-111;

(f) the action to be taken by the department;
(g) an explanation of any action required of the provider; and
(h) an explanation of the provider's right to appeal.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

53-6-1406. Publication of audit results. At least once a year the department shall publish and make accessible on its website the following information regarding all medicaid overpayment audits:

(1) the number and type of issues reviewed;
(2) the number of medical and other records requested from providers;
(3) the number of audits conducted by provider type;
(4) the number and aggregate dollar amounts of:
(a) overpayments identified;
(b) overpayments collected; and
(c) underpayments identified;
(5) the duration of audits from initiation to completion;
(6) the number of overpayment determinations and the reversal rates of those determinations at each stage of the informal and formal appeal process;
(7) the number of informal and formal appeals filed by providers, categorized by disposition status; and
(8) the auditor's compensation structure and total dollar amount of compensation for underpayments and overpayments.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

53-6-1407. Audit education and training. In order to carry out the requirements of 53-6-160(6) and to reduce claims errors, the department shall provide:

(1) educational and training programs for providers at least twice a year to discuss a summary of audit results, common issues and problems, mistakes identified through audits, and opportunities for improvement in provider performance related to claims billings and documentation; and

(2) information on the department's website regarding recurring audit issues, including at a minimum a description of each recurring audit issue, the types of providers affected, the review period in which the audit issues occurred, and any applicable department policy or rule related to the issue.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

53-6-1408. Applicability to auditor — scope. (1) An auditor performing or participating in an overpayment audit, overpayment determination, or related activity is subject to the same laws and regulations that would apply to the department in carrying out the same functions.

(2) This part does not apply to the medicaid fraud control unit provided for in 53-6-156 but apply to an overpayment audit, overpayment determination, or related activity by the department or an auditor that is based on or arises out of a medicaid fraud control unit investigation or referral.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

53-6-1409. Auditor evaluation hearings — adoption of rules. At least once a year, the department shall conduct auditor evaluation hearings to identify issues, recommend or require corrective actions, and provide for ongoing and future evaluation of auditor performance. With input from providers, including comments gathered at the auditor evaluation hearings, the department shall adopt rules for:

(1) appropriate and inappropriate conduct and determinations by auditors; and
(2) penalties and sanctions for inappropriate conduct and determinations.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

53-6-1410. Absorption of costs. Any cost incurred by the department of public health and human services in implementing 53-6-111 and this part must be absorbed into the department's existing budget.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 82, L. 2017.**

Parts 15 through 20 reserved

Part 21
Children's Mental Health Services Pilot Project — Youth Outcome Improvement
(Terminated)

53-6-2101. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 265, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2015.

53-6-2102. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 265, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 2015.

53-6-2103. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 265, L. 2015.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 265, L. 2015.

CHAPTER 7
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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Chapter Cross-References

Veterans' employment preference, Title 39, ch. 29.
Persons with disabilities public employment preference, Title 39, ch. 30.

Part 1
General Vocational Rehabilitation

53-7-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Independent living" means control over one's life based upon a choice between acceptable options in a manner that minimizes reliance upon others for making decisions and conducting activities of daily living.

(3) "Maintenance" means money payments made in accordance with 53-7-108.

(4) "Occupational license" means a license, permit, or other written authority required by any governmental unit to engage in an occupation.

(5) "Person with a disability" means the same as "individual with a disability" as defined in the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(8)(A), as may be amended. The term includes any individual who lacks occupational or vocational achievement because of the presence of a physical or mental disability.

(6) "Physical restoration" means any medical, surgical, or therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or substantially reduce the impediment to employment of a person within a reasonable length of time, including but not limited to medical, psychiatric, dental, and surgical treatment, nursing services, hospital care, convalescent care, drugs, medical and surgical supplies, and prosthetic appliances, but excluding curative treatment for acute or transitory medical conditions unless necessary to maintain a person's health in order to complete a rehabilitation plan.

(7) "Prosthetic appliance" means an artificial device necessary to support or take the place of a part of the body or to increase the acuity of a sense organ.

(8) "Rehabilitation engineering" means the systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of and address the barriers confronted by persons with disabilities. The barriers may exist in the areas of education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, and recreation.

(9) "Rehabilitation plan" means a plan, developed with the participation of the recipient, for providing services to assist a person with a disability to become independent and productive or employable.

(10) "Rehabilitation training" means training provided to a person with a disability to overcome the person's impediment to employment. The term includes but is not limited to manual, preconditioning, prevocational, vocational, and supplementary training and training provided for the purpose of achieving broader or more remunerative skills and capacities.

(11) "Vocational rehabilitation" means the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to a person with a disability to enable the person to the extent possible to become independent and productive or employable.

(12) "Vocational rehabilitation services" means the following services: medical diagnosis, vocational guidance, vocational counseling, vocational placement, rehabilitation training, rehabilitation engineering, physical restoration, transportation, occupational licenses, customary occupational tools and equipment, maintenance, training books and materials, group facilities, family services, followup services, and any other goods and services provided for by rule and that the department determines to be necessary to rehabilitate the person.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1971; Sec. 41-801, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1801 by Sec. 10, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 459, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

53-7-102. Powers and duties of department. The department:

(1) shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this part. Rules adopted may include but are not limited to the provision of services, individual service plans, eligibility for services, application, service goals and design, quality of services, provider relationships, program standards, program staffing, staff training, provider accounting procedures, confidential information, recipient grievance procedures, hearings, and definitions necessary to carry out this part.

(2) may take any other action that it determines necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this part;

(3) may cooperate with other departments and agencies and institutions, both public and private, in providing for vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, in studying the problems involved in vocational rehabilitation, and in establishing, developing, and providing programs, facilities, and services;

(4) may conduct research and compile statistics relating to the vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; and

(5) may accept and use gifts to carry out this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 93, L. 1969; Sec. 41-803, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1802 by Sec. 11, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2102; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-7-103. Department to cooperate with federal government. The department shall cooperate, pursuant to agreements with the federal government, in carrying out the purposes of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701, et seq.), as may be amended, and may adopt methods of administration as required by the federal government for state participation in programs funded under the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 53, L. 1961; Sec. 41-805, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1803 by Sec. 12, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2103; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

53-7-104. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1959; Sec. 41-806, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1804 by Sec. 13, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2104.

53-7-105. Eligibility. A person with a disability is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the department, after full investigation, determines that the person may become employable or achieve accepted vocational objectives through the provision of vocational rehabilitation services that are made available as provided for in 53-7-108.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 192, L. 1971; Sec. 41-808, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1805 by Sec. 14, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2105; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

53-7-106. Hearings. A person applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation services who is aggrieved by any action or inaction of the department is entitled to a fair hearing in accordance with the rules adopted by the department.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 74, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 192, L. 1971; Sec. 41-810, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1806 by Sec. 15, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2106; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

53-7-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1947; Sec. 41-812, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-1807 by Sec. 16, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2107.

53-7-108. Provision of services — financial responsibility for services. (1) The department, in accord with this part and the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701, et seq.), as may be amended, may provide to persons determined eligible under 53-7-105 any vocational rehabilitation services listed in 53-7-101 that are determined by the department to be appropriate and necessary for the person's vocational rehabilitation.

(2) The following vocational rehabilitation services are available without cost to an eligible person:

(a) counseling and guidance;
(b) diagnostic evaluation; and
(c) placement.

(3) In addition to the services listed in subsection (2), the department may pay the cost of other vocational rehabilitation services for an eligible person to the extent that the department determines that the person is without sufficient financial resources to pay the cost of such services.

(4) The department may in its discretion provide maintenance payments to a recipient of vocational rehabilitation services if the department determines that the recipient is without sufficient financial resources to:

(a) obtain basic necessities at a level the department determines is appropriate; and
(b) pay the cost of vocational rehabilitation services to be provided to the person.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

53-7-109. Administration of vocational rehabilitation programs — applicability. 1) Those divisions of the department that have programs for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services may share administrative personnel, operations, and policies in order o ensure uniform administration necessary under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701, et seq., as may be amended.

(2) This section applies to all programs and services in Title 53, chapter 7, administered by the department with funds provided under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 701, et seq., as may be amended.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 130, L. 2005.

Part 2
Sheltered Workshops

53-7-201. Legislative findings and purpose. (1) The purpose of this part is to encourage the development and improvement of supervised work programs and support services for persons with severe disabilities.

(2) Supervised work programs and support services should be available to provide persons with severe disabilities the skills and means by which they may lead socially and vocationally productive lives so they can be integrated into society.

(3) The state may encourage the establishment of and provide funding for supervised work programs and support services for persons with severe disabilities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 41-816; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 1989.

53-7-202. Definitions. (1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(2) "Severe disability" means a severe physical or mental impairment that seriously limits a person's functional capacities in respect to obtaining employment.

(3) "Sheltered employment" means a recognized program of rehabilitation, remunerative employment, or other occupational rehabilitating activity of an educational or therapeutic nature provided by a nonprofit sheltered workshop provider. Sheltered employment includes job skills and social skills training and remunerative employment.

(4) "Supervised work program" means a program providing guidance in learning and achieving the requirements of job performance through work activity, sheltered employment, and supported employment.

(5) "Support services" means continuous or periodic job skills training provided to a person at a worksite to enable the person to perform work. Support services also include services away from the worksite that are necessary to allow a person with a severe disability to participate in a supervised work program, such as transportation, direction and assistance in functional skills, and counseling for family members.

(6) "Supported employment" means competitive work in an integrated work setting for a person with a severe disability who is in need of assistance in order to become employed or remain employed. Supported employment includes assessment, preplacement preparation, job development, job placement, job skills training, and support services.

(7) "Work activity" means therapeutic work-related activities provided by a nonprofit work activity center provider to persons whose physical or mental impairment is so severe as to make their productive capacity inconsequential. Therapeutic work-related activities include training in basic skills of living and any purposeful activity so long as work or production is not the main purpose.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 322, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 41-817; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 460, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-7-203. Purchase of services. (1) The department may purchase services under this part for persons with severe disabilities, to the extent that funds are appropriated and allocated, from any sheltered employment provider, work activity center, supported employment provider, or support services provider within Montana.

(2) An organization may receive funding under this part if it meets the standards and criteria promulgated by the department.

(3) The department shall adopt standards and criteria for the services purchased under this part to assure the quality and appropriateness of such services. The department may adopt standards and criteria of a nationally recognized accreditation organization for accrediting facilities providing services under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 333, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 41-818; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Special state purchasing conditions — sheltered workshops, Title 18, ch. 5, part 1.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

53-7-204. Federal and other aid. (1) The department may apply for and receive federal aid money or other funding available for the programs provided for under this part.

(2) Federal funds and other funding that may be available may be appropriated to the department for use in administering the provisions of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 322, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 41-819; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 267, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 10, L. 2009.**

53-7-205. Eligibility for services. (1) A person may receive services provided for under this part if the department determines that:

(a) the person has a severe disability;

(b) the person lacks social competence, mobility, experience, skills, training, or other characteristics of independence;

(c) the person is in need of services provided for under this part; and

(d) the needed services are available for that person.

(2) The receipt of services under this part by an eligible person shall be governed by an individual service plan developed in accordance with state and federal requirements.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1989.**

53-7-206. Rulemaking. For the purposes of providing supervised work programs and support services for persons with severe disabilities, the department may adopt rules necessary for the administration of such programs. Rules adopted may include but are not limited to rules regarding eligibility for services, certification of services, program staffing, staff training service goals and design, quality of services, recipient placement procedures, individual service plans, recipient rights and privileges, recipient grievance procedures, fair hearings, provider relationships, provider accounting procedures, and definitions necessary to implement this part

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 267, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 3
Vocational Rehabilitation of the Blind

Part Cross-References

Vending facilities for blind vendors, Title 18, ch. 5, part 4.
Assistance by employment placement officer, 20-8-116.

53-7-301. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Blindness" means a visual disability in which:

(i) a person's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses; or

(ii) a person's visual field at the widest diameter subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

(b) The term includes any visual disability that, in the determination of the department renders vision seriously defective or causes blindness.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Independent living" means control over one's life based upon a choice between acceptable options in a manner that minimizes reliance upon others for making decisions and conducting activities of daily living.

(4) "Low vision" means a visual impairment that, even with correction, remains so severe as to make performance of daily tasks difficult.

(5) "Maintenance" means money payments made in accordance with 53-7-310.

(6) "Occupational license" means a license, permit, or other written authority required by any governmental unit to engage in an occupation.

(7) "Person with a disability" means the same as "individual with a disability" as defined n the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(8)(A), as may be amended. The term ncludes any individual who lacks occupational or vocational achievement because of the presence of a physical or mental disability.

(8) (a) "Physical restoration" means any medical, surgical, or therapeutic treatment necessary to correct or substantially reduce an impediment to employment caused by blindness or low vision within a reasonable length of time, including but not limited to medical, psychiatric, dental, and surgical treatment, nursing services, hospital care, convalescent care, drugs, medical and surgical supplies, and prosthetic appliances.

(b) The term does not include curative treatment for acute or transitory medical conditions unless necessary to maintain a person's health in order to complete a rehabilitation plan.

(9) "Prosthetic appliance" means an artificial device necessary to support or take the place of a part of the body or to increase the acuity of a sense organ.

(10) "Rehabilitation engineering" means the systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of and address the barriers confronted by persons with blindness or low vision. The barriers may exist in the areas of education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, and recreation.

(11) "Rehabilitation plan" means a plan, developed with the participation of the recipient, for providing services to assist a person with blindness or low vision to become independent and productive or employable.

(12) "Rehabilitation training" means training provided to a person with blindness or low vision to overcome the person's impediment to employment, including but not limited to manual, preconditioning, prevocational, vocational, and supplementary training and training provided or the purpose of achieving broader or more remunerative skills and capacities.

(13) "Vocational rehabilitation" means the provision of vocational rehabilitation services o a person with blindness or low vision to enable the person to the extent possible to become ndependent and productive or employable.

(14) "Vocational rehabilitation services" means the following services: medical diagnosis, vocational guidance, vocational counseling, vocational placement, rehabilitation training, rehabilitation engineering, physical restoration, transportation, occupational licenses, customary occupational tools and equipment, maintenance, training books and materials, group facilities, family services, followup services, and any other goods and services provided for by rule and that the department determines to be necessary to rehabilitate the person.

History: **(1), (2), (4) thru (10)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 7, L. 1977; Sec. 71-1401, R.C.M.; (3)En. 71-201.1 by Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1974; Sec. 71-201.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 947, 71-201.1(1), 71-1401; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 461, Ch. 546, L. 995; amd. Sec. 241, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 472, L. 1997.**

53-7-302. Administration. The department may:

(1) cooperate with other departments and agencies and institutions, both public and private, in providing the services authorized by this part to persons with blindness or low vision; in studying the problems involved in vocational rehabilitation; and in establishing, developing, and providing programs, facilities, and services;

(2) conduct research and compile statistics relating to the provision of services to or the need of services for persons with blindness or low vision;

(3) accept and use gifts to carry out this part; and

(4) make rules and take any other action it determines necessary or appropriate to carry out this part.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 121, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 1974; R.C.M. 947, 71-1404; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 396, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-7-303. Cooperation with federal government. The department shall cooperate, pursuant to agreements with the federal government, in carrying out the purposes of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701, et seq.), as may be amended, and may adopt methods of administration required by the federal government for state participation in programs funded under the federal act.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 167, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1405; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 396, L. 1989.**

53-7-304. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1406.**

53-7-305. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1407.**

53-7-306. Eligibility for services. A person with a disability because of blindness or low vision is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if the department, after full investigation, determines that the person may become employable or achieve accepted vocational objectives through the provision of vocational rehabilitation services that are made available as provided for in 53-7-310.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1408; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 396, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 472, L. 1997.**

53-7-307. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 167, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 121, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1409.**

53-7-308. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 523, L. 1979.**

53-7-309. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 396, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 523, L. 1979.**

53-7-310. Provision of services — financial responsibility for services. (1) The department, in accord with this part and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701, et seq.), as may be amended, may provide to persons determined eligible under 53-7-306 any vocational rehabilitation services listed in 53-7-301 that are determined by the department to be appropriate and necessary for the person's vocational rehabilitation.

(2) The following vocational rehabilitation services are available without cost to a persor eligible for visual services:

(a) counseling and guidance;

(b) diagnostic evaluation; and

(c) placement.

(3) In addition to the services listed in subsection (2), the department may pay the cost o other vocational rehabilitation services for an eligible person to the extent that the departmen determines that the person is without sufficient financial resources to pay the cost of such services.

(4) The department may in its discretion provide maintenance payments to a recipien of vocational rehabilitation services if the department determines that the recipient is withou sufficient financial resources to:

(a) obtain basic necessities at a level the department determines is appropriate; and

(b) pay the cost of vocational rehabilitation services to be provided to the person.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 396, L. 1989.**

53-7-311 through 53-7-313 reserved.

53-7-314. Hearings. A person applying for or receiving vocational rehabilitation services who is aggrieved by any action or inaction of the department is entitled to a fair hearing in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 396, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

53-7-315. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this part. Rules adopted may include but are not limited to the provision o services, individual service plans, eligibility for services, application, service goals and design uality of services, provider relationships, program standards, program staffing, staff training, rovider accounting procedures, confidential information, recipient grievance procedures, earings, and definitions necessary to carry out this part.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 396, L. 1989.**

ross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

CHAPTER 8
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Participation in Federal Programs (Repealed)

Part 1
Participation in Federal Programs
(Repealed)

53-8-101. **Repealed.** Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1601.**

53-8-102. **Repealed.** Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1602.**

53-8-103. **Repealed.** Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 263, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1603.**

53-8-104. **Repealed.** Sec. 63, Ch. 16, L. 1991.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1604.**

CHAPTER 9
SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Part 1 — The Crime Victims Compensation Act of Montana

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Chapter Cross-References

Rights of crime victims — compensation and assistance account, 46-18-248 through 46-18-251.

Treatment of victims and witnesses, Title 46, ch. 24.

Part 1
The Crime Victims Compensation Act of Montana

Part Cross-References

Availability of remedies — liability, Title 27, ch. 1.

53-9-101. Short title. This part may be cited as "The Crime Victims Compensation Act of Montana".

History: En. 71-2601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2601.

53-9-102. Legislative purpose and intent. It is the intent of the legislature to provide a method of compensating those persons within the state who are innocent victims of criminal acts, including acts of international terrorism, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2331, that are committed outside of the United States against a resident of this state, and who suffer bodily injury or death and those innocent citizens of this state who are injured or killed in a state that does not have a crime victims compensation program that covers out-of-state residents injured or killed in that state. To this end, it is the legislature's intention to provide compensation for injuries suffered as a direct result of the criminal acts of other persons and to coordinate victims assistance programs.

History: En. 71-2602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2602; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 186, L. 1997.

53-9-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Claimant" means any of the following claiming compensation under this part:

(a) a victim;

(b) a dependent of a deceased victim; or

(c) an authorized person acting on behalf of any of them.

(2) "Collateral source" means a source of benefits, other than welfare benefits, or advantages for economic loss otherwise compensable under this part that the claimant has received or that is readily available to the claimant from:

(a) the offender;

(b) the government of the United States or any agency thereof, a state or any of its political subdivisions, or an instrumentality of two or more states, unless the law providing for the benefits or advantages makes them excess or secondary to benefits under this part;

(c) social security, medicare, and medicaid;

(d) workers' compensation;

(e) wage continuation programs of any employer;

(f) proceeds of a contract of insurance payable to the claimant for loss that was sustained because of the criminally injurious conduct;

(g) a contract, including an insurance contract, providing hospital and other health care services or benefits for disability. A contract in this state may not provide that benefits under this part are a substitute for benefits under the contract or that the contract is a secondary source of benefits and benefits under this part are a primary source.

(h) a crime victims compensation program operated by the state in which the victim was injured or killed that compensates residents of this state injured or killed in that state; or

(i) any other third party.

(3) "Criminally injurious conduct" means conduct that:

(a) occurs or is attempted in this state or an act of international terrorism, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2331, committed outside of the United States against a resident of this state;

(b) results in bodily injury or death or involves domestic violence in a home where minor children were present; and

(c) is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or death or would be so punishable except that the person engaging in the conduct lacked capacity to commit the crime under the laws of this state however, criminally injurious conduct does not include conduct arising out of the ownership maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle unless the bodily injury or death occurred during the ommission of an offense defined in Title 45 that requires the mental state of purposely as an lement of the offense or the injury or death was inflicted by the driver of a motor vehicle who is ound by the office, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been operating the motor vehicle vhile under the influence, as that term is defined in 61-8-1001; or

(d) is committed in a state without a crime victims compensation program that covers a esident of this state if the conduct meets the requirements in subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c).

(4) "Dependent" means a natural person who is recognized under the law of this state to e wholly or partially dependent upon the victim for care or support and includes a child of the ictim conceived before the victim's death but born after the victim's death, including a child hat is conceived as a result of the criminally injurious conduct.

(5) "Office" means the office of victims services established in 2-15-2016.

(6) "Victim" means:

(a) a person who suffers bodily injury or death as a result of:

(i) criminally injurious conduct;

(ii) the person's good faith effort to prevent criminally injurious conduct; or

(iii) the person's good faith effort to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of engaging n criminally injurious conduct; or

(b) a minor child present in a home where domestic violence occurred.

History: **En. 71-2603 by Sec. 3, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2603; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1979; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 186, L. 1997; md. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

ross-References

Crimes, Title 45.

53-9-104. *(Temporary)* **Powers and duties of office.** (1) The office shall:

(a) adopt rules to implement this part;

(b) prescribe forms for applications for compensation;

(c) determine all matters relating to claims for compensation; and

(d) require any person contracting directly or indirectly with an individual convicted of a ualifying crime for any book, photograph, movie, television production, or play prepared for a ommercial purpose that is based directly upon the crime or for the sale of an item owned or btained by an individual convicted of a qualifying crime or obtained, produced, or gained directly hrough unique knowledge about the crime or preparation for the crime to deposit any proceeds aid or owed to the individual under the terms of the contract into an escrow fund for the benefit f any victims of the qualifying crime and any dependents of a deceased victim, to be held for period of time that the office may determine is reasonably necessary to perfect the claims of he victims or dependents. Deposited proceeds may also be used to reimburse the office of state ublic defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, for costs associated with providing assigned counsel or the charged person. Each victim and dependent of a deceased victim is entitled to actual and nreimbursed damages of all kinds or $5,000, whichever is greater. Proceeds remaining after ayments to victims, dependents of deceased victims, and the state for any public defender or ny attorney assigned for the charged person must be paid to the crime victims compensation nd assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the account provided for in 3-9-113.

(2) The office may:

(a) request and obtain from prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers nvestigations and data to enable the office to determine whether and the extent to which a laimant qualifies for compensation. A statute providing confidentiality for a claimant's juvenile ourt records does not apply to proceedings under this part.

(b) request and obtain from a health care provider medical reports that are relevant to the hysical condition of a claimant or from an insurance carrier, agent, or claims adjuster insurance ayment information that is relevant to expenses claimed by a claimant if the office has made easonable efforts to obtain from the claimant a release of the records or information. No civil or riminal liability arises from the release of information requested under this subsection (2)(b).

(c) subpoena witnesses and other prospective evidence, administer oaths or affirmations, onduct hearings, and receive relevant, nonprivileged evidence;

(d) take notice of judicially cognizable facts and general, technical, and scientific facts within its specialized knowledge;

(e) require that law enforcement agencies and officials take reasonable care that victims be informed about the existence of this part and the procedure for applying for compensation under this part; and

(f) establish a victims assistance coordinating and planning program. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

53-9-104. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Powers and duties of office.** (1) The office shall:

(a) adopt rules to implement this part;

(b) prescribe forms for applications for compensation;

(c) determine all matters relating to claims for compensation; and

(d) require any person contracting directly or indirectly with an individual convicted of a qualifying crime for any book, photograph, movie, television production, or play prepared for a commercial purpose that is based directly upon the crime or for the sale of an item owned or obtained by an individual convicted of a qualifying crime or obtained, produced, or gained directly through unique knowledge about the crime or preparation for the crime to deposit any proceeds paid or owed to the individual under the terms of the contract into an escrow fund for the benefit of any victims of the qualifying crime and any dependents of a deceased victim, to be held for a period of time that the office may determine is reasonably necessary to perfect the claims of the victims or dependents. Deposited proceeds may also be used to reimburse the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, for costs associated with providing assigned counsel for the charged person. Each victim and dependent of a deceased victim is entitled to actual and unreimbursed damages of all kinds or $5,000, whichever is greater. Proceeds remaining after payments to victims, dependents of deceased victims, and the state for any public defender or any attorney assigned for the charged person must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) The office may:

(a) request and obtain from prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers investigations and data to enable the office to determine whether and the extent to which a claimant qualifies for compensation. A statute providing confidentiality for a claimant's juvenile court records does not apply to proceedings under this part.

(b) request and obtain from a health care provider medical reports that are relevant to the physical condition of a claimant or from an insurance carrier, agent, or claims adjuster insurance payment information that is relevant to expenses claimed by a claimant if the office has made reasonable efforts to obtain from the claimant a release of the records or information. No civil or criminal liability arises from the release of information requested under this subsection (2)(b).

(c) subpoena witnesses and other prospective evidence, administer oaths or affirmations conduct hearings, and receive relevant, nonprivileged evidence;

(d) take notice of judicially cognizable facts and general, technical, and scientific facts within its specialized knowledge;

(e) require that law enforcement agencies and officials take reasonable care that victims be informed about the existence of this part and the procedure for applying for compensation under this part; and

(f) establish a victims assistance coordinating and planning program.

History: En. 71-2605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2605; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 367, L. 1979; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 533, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 354, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 118, L. 2001 amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 585, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 266 L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 374, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.
Disclosure of health care information without patient's authorization, 50-16-530.

53-9-105. Rehabilitation of victims. The office shall refer to the department of public health and human services victims who have been permanently disabled through criminally injurious conduct, who are receiving benefits under this part, and who in the opinion of the office may be vocationally rehabilitated. The department of public health and human services shal provide for the vocational rehabilitation of the victims under its rehabilitation programs to the extent funds are available under the programs.

History: En. 71-2616 by Sec. 16, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2616; amd. Sec. 462, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Vocational rehabilitation, Title 53, ch. 7.

53-9-106. Attorney fees. (1) The office may grant attorney fees to attorneys for representing claimants before the office. Any attorney fee granted by the office is in addition to compensation awarded the claimant under this part.

(2) The office may regulate the amount of the attorney fee in any claim under this part when an attorney is representing a claimant.

(3) In cases under this part that go before a district court, the judge may grant, in addition to compensation benefits granted, attorney fees to attorneys for representing claimants before the court.

(4) Attorney fees in excess of 5% of the amount paid to a claimant or on a claimant's behalf may not be paid directly or indirectly to a claimant's attorney.

History: En. 71-2618 by Sec. 18, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2618; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Attorney fees, Title 25, ch. 10, part 3.

53-9-107. Public inspection and disclosure of office's records. (1) Except as provided n subsections (2) and (3), the records the office maintains in its possession in the administration of this part are open to public inspection and disclosure.

(2) Confidential criminal justice information obtained by the office is subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Montana Criminal Justice Information Act of 1979, Title 44, chapter 5.

(3) In assuring that the right of individual privacy so essential to the well-being of a free society may not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest, the following public records of the office are exempt from disclosure:

(a) information of a personal nature, such as personal, medical, or similar information, if the public disclosure of the information would constitute an unreasonable invasion of privacy, unless the public interest by clear and convincing evidence requires disclosure in the particular nstance. The party seeking disclosure has the burden of showing that public disclosure would not constitute an unreasonable invasion of privacy.

(b) any public records or information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by federal law or regulations.

(4) If any public record of the office contains material that is not exempt under subsection (3), as well as material that is exempt from disclosure, the office shall separate the exempt and nonexempt and make the nonexempt material available for examination.

History: En. 71-2619 by Sec. 19, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2619; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 286, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

53-9-108. Limitation of benefit entitlements to proportionate share of available funds. Claimants receiving benefits under this part are not granted an absolute entitlement to benefits. Benefits must be paid in accordance with the amount of the legislative appropriation. If the office determines at any time that the appropriated funds for a fiscal year will not be an amount that will fully pay all claims, the office may make appropriate proportionate reductions in benefits to all claimants. The reductions do not entitle claimants to future retroactive reimbursements in future fiscal years unless the legislature makes appropriations for retroactive benefits.

History: En. 71-2620 by Sec. 20, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2620; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-109. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 118, L. 2001.

History: En. 71-2624 by Sec. 25, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2624; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 367, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 354, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

53-9-110. Receipt of federal funds. The office may adopt appropriate rules in order to receive federal funds under federal criminal reparation and compensation acts.

History: En. 71-2622 by Sec. 22, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2622; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-111. Penalty for fraudulently obtaining benefits. Any person who knowingly makes a false claim or a false statement or uses any other fraudulent device in connection with any claim is guilty of theft as provided in 45-6-301 and upon conviction shall, in addition to being punished as provided by that section, forfeit and repay any compensation paid under this part.

History: En. 71-2623 by Sec. 23, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2623.

Cross-References

False claims to public agencies, 45-7-210.

53-9-112. Sale of confidential criminal justice information prohibited — penalty. (1) An individual convicted of a qualifying crime may not sell or exchange confidential criminal justice information, as defined in 44-5-103.

(2) The office shall require that any funds obtained in violation of subsection (1) be deposited into the escrow fund, provided for in 53-9-104, for the benefit of a victim of a qualifying crime, to be held as provided in 53-9-104.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 266, L. 2007.

53-9-113. *(Temporary)* **Crime victims compensation account.** There is an account in the state special revenue fund for crime victims compensation. The money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of justice for the purposes provided in this part. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 374, L. 2009.

53-9-114 through 53-9-120 reserved.

53-9-121. Application for compensation. An applicant for an award of compensation may apply in writing in a form that conforms substantially to that prescribed by the office.

History: En. 71-2606 by Sec. 6, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2606(1); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-122. Informal hearings. The office may hold informal hearings in order to make determinations regarding the compensability of a claim. At the hearings, the office may subpoena witnesses and documents as set forth in 2-4-104. Hearings held under this section are not considered contested case hearings under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. However, the office shall adopt rules regarding its informal hearing procedures.

History: En. 71-2607 by Sec. 7, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2607; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-123. Evidence of condition. (1) The office may require the claimant to supplement the application with any reasonably available medical or counseling reports relating to the injury for which compensation is claimed.

(2) If the physical condition of a victim or claimant is material to a claim, the office may order the victim or claimant to submit from time to time to a physical examination by a physician or may order an autopsy of a deceased victim. The office shall pay for the examination or autopsy. The order must specify the time, place, manner, conditions, and scope of the examination or autopsy and the person by whom it is to be made and must require the person to file with the office a detailed written report of the examination or autopsy. The report must set out physician's findings, including results of all tests made, diagnoses, prognoses, and other conclusions and reports of earlier examinations of the same conditions. On request of the person examined, the office shall furnish the person a copy of the report. If the victim is deceased, the office, on request, shall furnish the claimant a copy of the report.

(3) There is no privilege, except privileges arising from the attorney-client relationship, as to communications or records relevant to an issue of the physical condition of the claimant or victim in a proceeding under this part in which that condition is an element.

History: En. 71-2608 by Sec. 8, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2608; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Attorney-client privilege, 26-1-803.

53-9-124. Enforcement of office's orders — improper assertion of privilege. If a person refuses to comply with an order of the office or asserts a privilege to withhold or suppress evidence relevant to a claim, except privileges arising from the attorney-client relationship, the office may make any just order, including denial of the claim.

History: En. 71-2609 by Sec. 9, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2609; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Attorney-client privilege, 26-1-803.

53-9-125. Limitations on awards. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, compensation may not be awarded unless the claim is filed with the office within 1 year after the day the criminally injurious conduct occurred causing the injury or death upon which the claim s based. Compensation in cases involving sexual offenses against minors may not be awarded unless the claim is filed with the office within 1 year after the day the criminally injurious conduct was reported to a law enforcement agency or an agency of the state responsible for provision of child welfare services, or within 1 year after the day the victim reaches 18 years of age, whichever occurs last. The time for filing a claim may be extended by the office for good cause shown.

(2) Compensation may not be awarded to a claimant who is the offender or an accomplice of the offender or to any claimant if the award would unjustly benefit the offender or accomplice.

(3) Compensation may not be awarded unless the criminally injurious conduct resulting n injury or death was reported to a law enforcement officer. The report must be made within 72 hours after its occurrence, except in a case involving a sexual offense against a minor or when the office finds there was good cause for the failure to report within that time.

(4) In order to be entitled to benefits under this part, a claimant shall fully cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys in the apprehension and prosecution of the offender causing the criminally injurious conduct. The office, upon finding that the claimant or victim has not fully cooperated with appropriate law enforcement agencies or prosecuting attorneys, may deny or reconsider and reduce an award of compensation.

(5) Compensation otherwise payable to a claimant must be reduced or denied to the extent the compensation benefits payable are or can be recouped from collateral sources.

(6) Persons serving a sentence of imprisonment or residing in any other public institution which provides for the maintenance of the person are not entitled to the benefits of this part.

(7) Compensation may be denied or reduced if the victim contributed to the infliction of death or injury with respect to which the claim is made. Any reduction in benefits under this subsection must be in proportion to what the office finds to be the victim's contribution to the infliction of death or injury.

History: En. 71-2606 by Sec. 6, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2606(2) thru (7); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 367, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-126. Tentative award of compensation. If the office determines that the claimant will suffer financial hardship unless a tentative award is made and it appears likely that a final award will be made, an amount may be paid to the claimant, to be deducted from the final award or repaid by and recoverable from the claimant to the extent that it exceeds the final award.

History: En. 71-2614 by Sec. 14, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2614; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-127. Award of compensation. (1) The office shall award compensation benefits under this part if satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that the requirements for compensation have been met.

(2) An award may be made whether or not any person is prosecuted or convicted. Proof of conviction of a person whose acts give rise to a claim is conclusive evidence that the crime was committed unless an application for rehearing, an appeal of the conviction, or certiorari is pending or a rehearing or new trial has been ordered.

(3) The office may suspend the proceedings pending disposition of a criminal prosecution that has been commenced or is imminent and may make a tentative award under 53-9-126.

History: (1)En. 71-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2604, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 71-2610 by Sec. 10, Ch. 527, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2610, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2604, 71-2610; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-128. Compensation benefits. (1) A claimant is entitled to weekly compensation benefits when the claimant has a total actual loss of wages due to injury as a result of criminally injurious conduct. During the time the claimant seeks weekly benefits, the claimant, as a result of the injury, must have no reasonable prospect of being regularly employed in the norma labor market. The weekly benefit amount is 66⅔% of the wages received at the time of the criminally injurious conduct, subject to a maximum of one-half the state's average weekly wage as determined in 39-51-2201. Weekly compensation payments must be made at the end of each 2-week period. Weekly compensation payments may not be paid for the first week after the criminally injurious conduct occurred, but if total actual loss of wages continues for 1 week weekly compensation payments must be paid from the date the wage loss began. Weekly compensation payments must continue until the claimant has a reasonable prospect of being regularly employed in the normal labor market.

(2) The claimant is entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable services by a physician or surgeon, reasonable hospital services and medicines, and other treatment approved by the office for the injuries suffered due to criminally injurious conduct. Unless expressly requested by the claimant, benefits may not be paid under this subsection until the claimant has been fully compensated for total wage loss benefits as provided in subsection (1) or (7).

(3) (a) The dependents of a victim who is killed as a result of criminally injurious conduct are entitled to receive, in a gross single amount payable to all dependents, weekly benefits amounting to 66⅔% of the wages received at the time of the criminally injurious conduct causing the death, subject to a maximum of one-half the state's average weekly wage as determined in 39-51-2201. Weekly compensation payments must be made at the end of each 2-week period.

(b) Benefits under subsection (3)(a) must be paid to the spouse for the benefit of the spouse and other dependents unless the office determines that other payment arrangements should be made. If a spouse dies or remarries, benefits under subsection (3)(a) must cease to be paid to the spouse but must continue to be paid to the other dependents as long as their dependent status continues.

(4) Reasonable funeral and burial expenses of the victim, not exceeding $10,000, must be paid if all other collateral sources have properly paid expenses but have not covered all expenses

(5) Compensation payable to a victim and all of the victim's dependents in cases of the victim's death because of injuries suffered due to an act of criminally injurious conduct may not exceed $25,000 in the aggregate.

(6) Compensation benefits are not payable for pain and suffering, inconvenience, physica impairment, or nonbodily damage.

(7) (a) A person who has suffered injury as a result of criminally injurious conduct and as a result of the injury has no reasonable prospect of being regularly employed in the norma labor market and who was employable but was not employed at the time of the injury may in the discretion of the office be awarded weekly compensation benefits in an amount determined by the office not to exceed $100 per week. Weekly compensation payments must continue until the claimant has a reasonable prospect of being regularly employed in the normal labor market. The claimant must be awarded benefits as provided in subsection (2).

(b) The dependents of a victim who is killed as a result of criminally injurious conduct and who was employable but not employed at the time of death may in the discretion of the office be awarded, in a gross single amount payable to all dependents, a sum not to exceed $100 per week, which is payable in the manner and for the period provided by subsection (3)(b) or for a shorter period as determined by the office. The claimant must be awarded benefits as provided in subsection (4).

(8) Except for benefits paid under subsections (3), (5), and (7)(b) or other benefits paid when the victim is killed as a result of criminally injurious conduct, amounts payable as weekly compensation may not be commuted to a lump sum and may not be paid less frequently than every 2 weeks.

(9) (a) Subject to the limitations in subsection (9)(e), the spouse, parent, child, brother or sister of a victim who is killed as a result of criminally injurious conduct is entitled to reimbursement for mental health treatment received as a result of the victim's death.

(b) Subject to the limitations in subsection (9)(e), the parent, brother, or sister of a minor who is a victim of criminally injurious conduct involving a sexual offense and who is not entitled to receive services under Title 41, chapter 3, is entitled to reimbursement for mental health treatment received as a result of that criminally injurious conduct.

(c) Subject to the limitations in subsection (9)(e), the parent or guardian of a minor who is a victim of criminally injurious conduct involving a sexual offense and who is not entitled to receive services under Title 41, chapter 3, is entitled to:

(i) claim benefits under subsection (1);

(ii) mileage at the rate allowed by the internal revenue service for the current year; and

(iii) if not receiving benefits under subsection (9)(c)(i), actual wage loss reimbursement for wage loss incurred taking the minor victim to mental health or medical treatment received as a result of that criminally injurious conduct.

(d) Subject to the limitations in subsection (9)(e), minor children who were present in a home where domestic violence occurred are entitled to reimbursement for mental health treatment received as a result of that criminally injurious conduct.

(e) Total payments made under subsections (9)(a) through (9)(d) may not exceed $5,000 or 12 consecutive months of treatment for each person, whichever occurs first.

History: (1) thru (7)En. 71-2612 by Sec. 12, Ch. 527, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2612, R.C.M. 1947; (8)En. 71-2613 by Sec. 13, Ch. 527, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2613, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2612, 71-2613(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 68, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 125, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 186, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 23, 2023.

53-9-129. Award not subject to execution, attachment, garnishment, or assignment — exception. (1) An award is not subject to execution, attachment, garnishment, or other process, except an execution, attachment, or garnishment of a right to compensation for work loss to secure payment of maintenance or child support.

(2) An assignment or agreement to assign a right to compensation in the future is unenforceable except:

(a) an assignment of a right to compensation for work loss to secure payment of maintenance or child support; or

(b) an assignment of a right to compensation to the extent that the benefits are for the cost of products, services, or accommodations necessitated by the injury or death on which the claim is based and are provided or to be provided by the assignee.

History: En. 71-2613 by Sec. 13, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2613(2), (3); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Child support — income deduction, Title 40, ch. 5, part 3.

Child support — administrative income withholding, Title 40, ch. 5, part 4.

53-9-130. Reconsideration and review of office's decisions. (1) The office on its own motion or on request of the claimant may reconsider a decision making or denying an award or determining its amount. The office shall reconsider at least annually every award being paid in installments. An order on reconsideration of an award may not require refund of amounts previously paid unless the award was obtained by fraud.

(2) The right of reconsideration does not affect the finality of an office decision for the purpose of appeal.

History: En. 71-2615 by Sec. 15, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2615; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 124, L. 2001.

53-9-131. Appeals. After the office has made final determination concerning any matter relating to a claim, if the claimant disputes the office's determination, the claimant may appeal to the district court for the county in which the claimant resides for review. Review on appeal must be in conformity with 2-4-701 through 2-4-704 of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. The judge, after a hearing, shall make a final determination concerning the dispute and issue an appropriate order affirming, reversing, or modifying the office's determination.

History: En. 71-2617 by Sec. 17, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2617; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

53-9-132. *(Temporary)* **Subrogation.** (1) If a claimant seeks compensation under this part and compensation is awarded, the office is entitled to full subrogation against a judgment or recovery received by the claimant against the offender or a collateral source arising from the criminally injurious conduct committed by the offender for all compensation paid under this part. The office's right of subrogation is a first lien on the judgment or recovery. If the claimant does not institute the action against the offender or collateral source within 1 year from the date the criminally injurious conduct occurred, the office may institute the action in the name of the claimant or the claimant's personal representative. Funds recovered under this section must be paid to the crime victims compensation and assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the account provided for in 53-9-113.

(2) If the claimant institutes the action, the office shall pay a proportional share of costs and attorney fees if it recovers under its subrogation interest.

(3) If the office institutes the action in the name of the claimant or the claimant's personal representative and the recovery is in excess of the amount of compensation paid to the claimant and costs incurred by the office in pursuit of the action, the excess must be paid to the claimant

(4) If a judgment or recovery includes both damages for bodily injury or death for which the office has paid compensation under this part and damages for which the office has not paid compensation, then the office's subrogation interest applies only to that proportion of the judgment or recovery for which it has paid compensation. In a civil action in a court of this state arising out of criminally injurious conduct, the judge, on timely motion, shall direct the jury to return a special verdict indicating separately the amounts of the various items of damages awarded. A claimant may not make recoveries against the offender or collateral source in such a way as to avoid and preclude the office from receiving its proper subrogation share as provided in this section. The office shall release its lien provided for in subsection (1) upon receipt of its subrogation share. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

53-9-132. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Subrogation.** (1) If a claimant seeks compensation under this part and compensation is awarded, the office is entitled to full subrogation against a judgment or recovery received by the claimant against the offender or a collateral source arising from the criminally injurious conduct committed by the offender for all compensation paid under this part. The office's right of subrogation is a first lien on the judgment or recovery If the claimant does not institute the action against the offender or collateral source within 1 year from the date the criminally injurious conduct occurred, the office may institute the action in the name of the claimant or the claimant's personal representative.

(2) If the claimant institutes the action, the office shall pay a proportional share of costs and attorney fees if it recovers under its subrogation interest.

(3) If the office institutes the action in the name of the claimant or the claimant's personal representative and the recovery is in excess of the amount of compensation paid to the claimant and costs incurred by the office in pursuit of the action, the excess must be paid to the claimant

(4) If a judgment or recovery includes both damages for bodily injury or death for which the office has paid compensation under this part and damages for which the office has not paid compensation, then the office's subrogation interest applies only to that proportion of the judgment or recovery for which it has paid compensation. In a civil action in a court of this state arising out of criminally injurious conduct, the judge, on timely motion, shall direct the jury to return a special verdict indicating separately the amounts of the various items of damages awarded. A claimant may not make recoveries against the offender or collateral source in such a way as to avoid and preclude the office from receiving its proper subrogation share as provided in this section. The office shall release its lien provided for in subsection (1) upon receipt of its subrogation share.

History: **En. 71-2611 by Sec. 11, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2611; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 496, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 374, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

53-9-133. *(Temporary)* **Effect of award on probation and parole of offender** (1) When placing any convicted person on probation, the court may set as a condition of probation the payment to the state of an amount equal to any benefits paid by the office to a victim or a victim's dependents. The court may set a repayment schedule and modify it as circumstances change.

(2) Payment of the debt may be made a condition of parole subject to modification based on a change in circumstances.

(3) Funds received by the crime victims compensation and assistance program must be deposited in the account established in 53-9-113. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

53-9-133. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Effect of award on probation and parole of offender.** (1) When placing any convicted person on probation, the court may set as a condition of probation the payment to the state of an amount equal to any benefits paid by the office to a victim or a victim's dependents. The court may set a repayment schedule and modify it as circumstances change.

(2) Payment of the debt may be made a condition of parole subject to modification based on a change in circumstances.

History: **En. 71-2621 by Sec. 21, Ch. 527, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2621; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 124, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Sentences that may be imposed, 46-18-201.

CHAPTER 10
ADMINISTRATION OF HUMAN SERVICES

Part 1 — Plan for Delivery of Human Services (Not Codified)

Part 2 — Commission on Provider Rates and Services (Repealed)

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5 — Community Services Block Grant Program

53-10-501. Definitions.
53-10-502. Allocation of federal community services block grant funds.
53-10-503. Eligible human resource development councils.
53-10-504. Block grant plan — county and state approval.
53-10-505. Fiscal and program responsibility.

Part 1
Plan for Delivery of Human Services
(Not Codified)

53-10-101. Not codified.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 274, L. 1981.**

53-10-102. Not codified.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 1979.**

53-10-103. Not codified.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 520, L. 1979.**

Part 2
Commission on Provider Rates and Services
(Repealed)

53-10-201. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 2005.**

53-10-202. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 2005.**

53-10-203. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 520, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2011.**

53-10-204. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 520, L. 2005.**

53-10-205 through 53-10-210 reserved.

53-10-211. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 520, L. 2005.

53-10-212. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 81, L. 2017.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 520, L. 2005.

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5
Community Services Block Grant Program

53-10-501. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Block grant" means the federal community services block grant established under 42 U.S.C. 9901, et seq.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Human resource development council" means a nonprofit public or private community organization serving low-income persons in a multicounty area that has the same boundaries as one or more substate planning districts established by executive order of the governor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 463, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Low-income home weatherization programs — allocation by substate planning districts, Title 90, ch. 4, part 2.

53-10-502. Allocation of federal community services block grant funds. The department shall allocate the state's share of the block grant funds as follows:

(1) The department may retain 5% for administrative costs and 5% for special projects.

(2) The balance of the block grant funds after any retention pursuant to subsection (1) must be distributed to human resource development councils that are eligible to receive such funding under 53-10-503 as follows:

(a) $500,000, or if the balance of the block grant funds is less than $500,000, then the entire balance of the block grant funds, must be equally divided among the eligible human resource development councils; and

(b) except as provided under 53-10-504(2), the balance of the block grant funds after distribution under subsections (1) and (2)(a) must be divided among eligible human resource development councils as follows:

(i) one-half based upon the population residing within the areas of human resource development councils; and

(ii) one-half based upon the low-income population, as that population may be determined under the provisions of the block grant, residing within the areas of the human resource development councils.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 237, L. 1983.

53-10-503. Eligible human resource development councils. The department may not distribute block grant funds unless the human resource development council:

(1) meets the eligibility requirements set forth in 42 U.S.C. 9904, including composition of the board; and

(2) has complied with federal and state fiscal control requirements and agrees to comply with all fiscal and program requirements of federal law.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 237, L. 1983.

53-10-504. Block grant plan — county and state approval. (1) A human resource development council shall prepare a plan for use of block grant funds. The planned use must be in compliance with block grant requirements, and the plan must be made to further the goals stated in the block grant.

(2) The human resource development council shall submit the plan to the county governing bodies within its multicounty area. A county governing body may approve, disapprove, or offer amendments to the plan. If the county governing body and the human resources development council cannot agree as to the plan's components, the department shall prepare and approve a plan for such county. The department shall then allocate block grant funds to the appropriate

human resource development council to administer according to the plan approved for such county by the department.

(3) The plan must be submitted to the department for approval prior to distribution by the department of block grant funds allocated to the human resource development council. The department may disapprove a plan, in whole or in part, only if the plan conflicts with a federal law or regulation. A disapproved plan may be amended and resubmitted to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 237, L. 1983.**

53-10-505. Fiscal and program responsibility. The department shall ensure state compliance in fiscal accountability and program integrity relating to block grant funds and services. The department shall audit the human resource development councils as may be required by state and federal law.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 237, L. 1983.**

CHAPTERS 11 THROUGH 17
RESERVED

CHAPTER 18
SELF-SUFFICIENCY TRUSTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

53-18-101. Definitions.
53-18-102. Creation of self-sufficiency trust account.
53-18-103. Administration of trust account.
53-18-104. Benefits not affected.
53-18-105. Special account.

Part 1
General Provisions

53-18-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(2) "Self-sufficiency trust" means a trust created by a nonprofit corporation that is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), as amended, and that was organized under the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act, Title 35, chapter 2, for the purpose of providing for the care and treatment of one or more persons who are residents of this state and are persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or physical disabilities or are otherwise eligible for department services, as defined by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 464, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

53-18-102. Creation of self-sufficiency trust account. (1) There is created a self-sufficiency trust account in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall deposit to the credit of the trust account money received from a self-sufficiency trust for that purpose. The state treasurer shall direct payments from the trust account upon claims certified by the director of the department.

(2) The assets of the trust account must be preserved, invested, and expended in the manner and for the purposes provided in 53-18-103. At the end of each fiscal year, the unexpended account balance must carry forward to the next fiscal year and may not revert to the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 542, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 325, L. 1995.**

53-18-103. Administration of trust account. (1) The department may accept money from a self-sufficiency trust for deposit in the self-sufficiency trust account pursuant to an agreement with the self-sufficiency trust naming one or more beneficiaries who are residents of this state and are persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or physical disabilities or are otherwise eligible for department services, as defined by the department. The agreement must specify the care or treatment to be provided for each named beneficiary. Money in the trust account must be accounted for separately for each named beneficiary. The department o public health and human services shall administer the trust account for beneficiaries who ar mentally ill.

(2) (a) The department shall adopt rules to administer the trust account.

(b) The money in the trust account may be spent by the department, pursuant to its rules only to provide care or treatment for the named beneficiary in accordance with the terms of th agreement.

(c) If the director of the department determines that the money in the trust accoun for a named beneficiary cannot be used for the care and treatment of the beneficiary in manner consistent with the rules of the department and the agreement or upon request o the self-sufficiency trust, the remaining money in the trust account for the named beneficiary together with any accumulated interest, must be promptly returned to the self-sufficiency trus that provided the money for deposit in the trust account.

(3) The trust account money must be deposited in the state treasury and invested a required by law and the earnings credited to the trust account.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec 465, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

53-18-104. Benefits not affected. Receipt by a beneficiary of supplemental services as a result of the self-sufficiency trust account or of care and treatment provided by the trust may not in any way reduce, impair, or diminish the benefits to which the beneficiary is otherwise entitled by law.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 542, L. 1989.

53-18-105. Special account. There is created within the self-sufficiency trust account a special account for the disabled. The director of the department may accept money from any source for deposit into the special account. The money in the special account must be used by the department, subject to appropriation, for the purpose of providing for the care and treatment of low-income persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or physical disabilities or low-income persons otherwise eligible for department services, as defined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

CHAPTER 19
PHYSICALLY DISABLED

Part 1 — Services and Community Homes

53-19-101. Purpose.
53-19-102. Definitions.
53-19-103. Department authorized to provide services.
53-19-104. Department contracts for services — governmental units providing for community homes for persons with severe disabilities.
53-19-105. Federal and other aid.
53-19-106. Eligibility for services.
53-19-107 through 53-19-109 reserved.
53-19-110. Eligibility for residential services in community home for persons with severe disabilities.
53-19-111. Repealed.
53-19-112. Rulemaking.
53-19-113. Repealed.

Part 2 — Community Home Licensing (Renumbered)

Part 3 — Telecommunications Services

53-19-301. Legislative findings and declaration.
53-19-302. Definitions.
53-19-303. Term of office — vacancies.
53-19-304. Officers — meetings — quorum — compensation.
53-19-305. Power and duties.
53-19-306. Program established — purpose.
53-19-307. Provision of services.
53-19-308. Telecommunications relay service system — requirements.
53-19-309. Gifts and grants.
53-19-310. Account for telecommunications services and specialized telecommunications equipment for persons with disabilities.

53-19-311. Special assessment.
53-19-312. Repealed.
53-19-313 and 53-19-314 reserved.
53-19-315. Records — audit.
53-19-316. Service provider required to hold fee in trust for state penalty and interest.
53-19-317. Credit or refund for overpayment — interest on overpayment.
53-19-318. Statute of limitations.
53-19-319. Service provider considered taxpayer under provisions for fee.

Part 4 — Newborn Hearing Screening

53-19-401. Purpose.
53-19-402. Statewide universal newborn hearing screening, tracking, and intervention program.
53-19-403. Repealed.
53-19-404. Required education — screening — reporting.

Cross-References

Discrimination in anatomical gifts and organ transplants, Title 49, ch. 4, part 6.

Part 1
Services and Community Homes

Part Cross-References

Accessibility of polling places, Title 13, ch. 3, part 2.

53-19-101. Purpose. The legislature, in recognition of needs of persons with severe disabilities and of the desirability of meeting those needs on a community level to the extent of available funding and in order to reduce the need for institutional care settings, establishes by this part a community program to assist persons with severe disabilities to live and function independently. This program implements Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796, et seq.), as may be amended, for persons with severe disabilities in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 1993.

53-19-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community home for persons with severe disabilities" means a facility licensed by the department, as provided for in 52-4-201 through 52-4-205.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services established in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Disability" means a permanent physical or mental condition recognized as a disability by Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 796, et seq., as may be amended.

(4) "Live and function independently" means to have control over one's life based upon a choice between acceptable options in a manner that minimizes reliance upon others for making decisions and conducting activities of daily living.

(5) "Person with a severe disability" means the same as "individual with a severe disability" as defined in the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(15)(B), as may be amended. The term includes an individual whose ability to function independently in family or community or whose ability to engage or continue in employment is so limited by the severity of the physical or mental disability that the services provided under this part are required in order for the individual to achieve a greater level of independence in functioning in family or community or in engaging in or continuing in employment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 326, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 466, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 242, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

53-19-103. Department authorized to provide services. (1) Subject to available appropriated funds, services provided under this part include:

(a) vocational and other rehabilitation services that enhance the ability of a person with severe disabilities to live and function independently and to engage in or continue in appropriate employment; and

(b) any services specified in Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796, et seq.), as may be amended.

(2) To the extent that funds are appropriated and allocated for the purpose of providin services to persons with severe disabilities, the department may establish the facilities an services it determines are in the best interest of persons with severe disabilities.

(3) The scope, amount, and duration of services made available to persons with sever disabilities under this part are within the discretion of the department to determine.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 330, L. 1989.**

53-19-104. Department contracts for services — governmental units providin for community homes for persons with severe disabilities. (1) The department ma expend money appropriated or available for the purposes of this part and may contract fo services for eligible persons with any person or entity providing the services to persons wit severe disabilities.

(2) Governmental units, including but not limited to counties, municipalities, schoo districts, or state institutions of higher learning, may at their own expense provide services funds, materials, and facilities for services to community homes for persons with sever disabilities.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 330, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.

53-19-105. Federal and other aid. The department may apply for and receive federal-ai money or other assistance that may be available for programs in the nature of the progra created by this part.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 713, L. 1985.**

53-19-106. Eligibility for services. (1) The department, in its discretion and in accordanc with this part and Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 796, et seq., a may be amended, may determine eligibility of persons for services under this part.

(2) To be eligible for services under this part, a person must have a disability of suc severity that, to secure and maintain employment or to function independently, the perso requires intensive vocational or comprehensive rehabilitation services.

(3) A person with severe disabilities not receiving other vocational and rehabilitatio services provided by the department has priority for services provided under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1905, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-19-107 through 53-19-109 reserved.

53-19-110. Eligibility for residential services in community home for persons with severe disabilities. (1) The department, in its discretion and in accordance with this part may determine eligibility for residential services in a community home for persons with severe disabilities, based on the residential needs of the person and on the availability of residential services. Any person with a severe disability, as defined in 52-4-202, may be considered for placement in a community home, regardless of the source of funding for the person's residential services.

(2) A person who has a primary diagnosis of mental illness or who receives mental health services under Title 53, chapter 21, is not eligible for placement in a community home for persons with severe disabilities unless the person is eligible for and receiving services under this part and Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 796, et seq., as may be amended, or Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq., as may be amended.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 330, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1906, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-19-111. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 330, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 514, L. 1987.**

53-19-112. Rulemaking. (1) For the purposes of providing services to persons with severe disabilities, the department may adopt rules necessary for the administration of services provided under this part. Rules adopted may include but are not limited to eligibility for services, facility design and acquisition, program staffing, staff training, service goals and design, quality of services, client placement procedures, client rights and privileges, client grievance procedures, fair hearings, provider grievance procedures, and accounting procedures which include accounting of client financial resources.

(2) The department shall, in cooperation with the board of nursing, adopt rules under which a properly trained staff member of a facility providing services to persons with severe disabilities under this part may supervise and assist a client of a facility in taking a medication f the medication is usually self-administered and if a physician has prescribed the assistance.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 713, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 330, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-19-113. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 330, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 713, L. 1985.**

Part 2
Community Home Licensing (Renumbered)

53-19-201. Renumbered 52-4-201. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-19-202. Renumbered 52-4-202. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-19-203. Renumbered 52-4-203. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-19-204. Renumbered 52-4-204. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-19-205. Renumbered 52-4-205. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 3
Telecommunications Services

53-19-301. Legislative findings and declaration. (1) The legislature finds and declares that many Montana citizens have physical disabilities and are unable to use traditional telecommunications equipment and services without assistance. These citizens constitute a substantial and valuable resource within the United States and the state of Montana, and this segment of our population needs access to telecommunications services in order to function as contributing and productive members of our society.

(2) The legislature further finds and declares that the role of telecommunications in our world today is inestimable. Telecommunications is the primary vehicle of commerce and ndustry, the means to convey and receive information and knowledge, and the way that we connect with others on a personal as well as business level. Telecommunications gives people ndependence and self-sufficiency, and it provides goods and services, human contact, and fellowship.

(3) The legislature further finds that access to telecommunications services should be provided to persons who have disabilities not only for their own sake but for the benefit of society at large. Access to telecommunications services would enhance the business and personal lives of persons with disabilities, and its availability to persons with disabilities would be an investment of benefit to all of Montana.

(4) Consistent with the findings stated in subsections (1) through (3), the legislature finds t appropriate to provide persons with disabilities access to telecommunications services by creating a program to make specialized telecommunications equipment and services available to persons with disabilities.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 472, L. 1997.**

53-19-302. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Committee" means the committee on telecommunications access services for persons with disabilities established in 2-15-2212.

(2) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(3) "End user connection" means a customer's connection to a service provider's network.

(4) "Mobility-disabled" means the condition of a person with reduced function of the arms, legs, or hands making activities related to moving, turning, or pressing objects difficult or mpossible. The term includes difficulty in using a wide range of telecommunications equipment.

(5) "Net amount billed for the fee" means the gross amount billed for fees imposed by 53-19-311, less adjustments for uncollectible accounts, refunds, incorrect billings, and other appropriate adjustments.

(6) "Person with a disability" means the condition of a person who is deaf and blind, deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-disabled, or mobility-disabled.

(7) "Program" means the program established in 53-19-306.

(8) "Service provider" means an entity that offers services to subscribers in Montana to allow two or more persons in different locations to communicate orally, without regard to the technology or medium the entity uses to provide the telecommunications service, and access to telecommunications relay service. The term includes providers of telecommunications service, including but not limited to providers of internet protocol-enabled voice communications service.

(9) "Specialized telecommunications equipment" means any telecommunications device that enables or assists a person with a disability to communicate with others by means of the public switched telephone network or internet protocol-enabled voice communications service. The term includes but is not limited to text telephones (TTY), amplifiers, signaling devices, puff-blow devices, electronic artificial larynx devices, telebraille, and equipment for the mobility-disabled.

(10) "Subscriber" means an end user who receives telecommunications network access from a service provider.

(11) "Telecommunications" means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing without a change in the form or content of the information upon receipt.

(12) "Telecommunications relay service" means a service that permits full and simultaneous communication between those using specialized telecommunications equipment and those using conventional telephone equipment or any other technology or equipment, including but not limited to personal computers and videophones.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 2007.

53-19-303. Term of office — vacancies. (1) Each member of the committee shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) A vacancy on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 1997.

53-19-304. Officers — meetings — quorum — compensation. (1) The committee shall choose a presiding officer from its members.

(2) The committee shall meet at least four times a year and at other times as determined by the presiding officer or by a majority of the committee.

(3) Seven members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(4) All members of the committee are entitled to reimbursement of expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members of the committee who are not state employees are also entitled to receive compensation as provided in 2-15-122 for each day that they are engaged in official business of the committee.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 603, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 603, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

53-19-305. Power and duties. The committee shall oversee administration of the program provided for in 53-19-306. In fulfilling this duty, the committee shall:

(1) establish policies and procedures governing administration of the program;

(2) analyze and approve a budget for administration of services under the program;

(3) monitor the expenditure of funds for the program;

(4) provide for administration of eligibility and the delivery of services for the program as provided for in 53-19-306 through 53-19-309; and

(5) perform any other duties necessary to properly oversee administration of the program.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

53-19-306. Program established — purpose. (1) The committee shall establish and administer a program to provide specialized telecommunications equipment and services to persons with disabilities.

(2) The purpose of the program is to:

(a) furnish specialized telecommunications equipment to meet the needs of persons with disabilities; and

(b) provide a telecommunications relay service system to connect persons with disabilities with all phases of public telecommunications service, including telecommunications service to emergency services and public safety agencies as defined in 10-4-101.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Statewide universal newborn hearing screening, tracking, and intervention program, 53-19-402.

53-19-307. Provision of services. (1) In administering the program established in 53-19-306 for individuals, the committee shall:

(a) develop an appropriate means test to determine eligibility for specialized telecommunications equipment based on family income of less than 250% of the federal poverty level;

(b) require that the person with a disability be a resident of Montana and that residency be maintained as a condition of eligibility for specialized telecommunications equipment;

(c) require persons with disabilities to provide satisfactory evidence that they have disabilities and would benefit from the use of specialized telecommunications equipment;

(d) provide specialized telecommunications equipment to participants through loan, lease, cost sharing, or other methods that are determined appropriate by the committee;

(e) determine the type of specialized telecommunications equipment that it considers necessary and economically feasible for use by Montana's persons with disabilities;

(f) purchase or lease all specialized telecommunications equipment through bid by wholesale manufacturers on a competitive basis;

(g) require, as a condition of each equipment purchase or lease, that the equipment vendor provide repair and maintenance service for new and returned equipment;

(h) maintain records for a minimum of 5 years of each item of equipment, including the location, serial number, and telephone number of each device;

(i) make reasonable efforts to recover equipment from those who become ineligible for continued participation in the program;

(j) provide a telecommunications relay service system that would be available statewide for operation 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, including holidays; and

(k) adopt rules necessary to administer the program.

(2) In adopting rules to implement subsections (1)(a) and (1)(d), the committee may, based upon available funds, provide the specialized telecommunications equipment, without charge, to individuals whose family income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-19-308. Telecommunications relay service system — requirements. The committee shall contract with one or more qualified providers to design and implement a telecommunications relay service system that fulfills the purpose described in 53-19-306. The committee shall require, under the terms of the contract, that:

(1) the system relay all messages promptly and accurately;

(2) the system maintain the privacy of persons using the system; and

(3) the provider preserve the confidentiality of all communications, except in instances in which the confidentiality would further a violation of the law.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

53-19-309. Gifts and grants. The committee may accept contributions, gifts, and grants, in money or otherwise, to the program established in 53-19-306. Monetary contributions, gifts, and grants must be deposited in the account provided for in 53-19-310.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

53-19-310. Account for telecommunications services and specialized telecommunications equipment for persons with disabilities. (1) Subject to legislative fund transfer, there is an account for telecommunications services and specialized telecommunications equipment for persons with disabilities in the state special revenue fund in the state treasury. The account consists of:

(a) all monetary contributions, gifts, and grants received by the committee as provided in 53-19-309; and

(b) all fees billed and collected pursuant to 53-19-311.

(2) The money in the account is allocated to the committee for purposes of implementing this part.

(3) All expenditures of the committee in administering this part must be paid from money deposited in the account.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 396, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 417, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 325, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 393, L. 2019.

53-19-311. Special assessment. (1) A fee of 10 cents a month must be assessed on each end user connection provided and billed or any prepaid options by each service provider and is imposed for the purposes of this part.

(2) Each subscriber of a service provider is liable for payment to the service provider of any fee properly imposed pursuant to this part. The service provider is not liable for any uncollected fee, nor does the service provider have an obligation to take legal action to enforce the collection of any fee that is unpaid by its subscribers.

(3) (a) Each service provider that periodically bills subscribers for its services shall bill each subscriber for the fee provided for in subsection (1). For subscribers who are not billed periodically, including but not limited to subscribers who purchase prepaid wireless telecommunication services for a flat fee, the service provider shall include in the price of the service a fee of 10 cents for each 30-day period during which the subscriber is authorized to use the service or a prepaid wireless telephone service provider shall remit an amount equal to the fees established in subsection (1) after collecting the amount using one of the following options:

(i) on a monthly basis, the prepaid service provider shall collect an amount equal to the fees established in subsection (1) from each active prepaid subscriber whose account balance is equal to or greater than the fees established in subsection (1); or

(ii) the prepaid service provider shall divide the total intrastate monthly revenue by the average revenue for each prepaid subscriber of the wireless industry to determine the number of prepaid subscribers. The fees established in subsection (1) are then applied to the number of prepaid subscribers.

(b) Each service provider shall file a return provided by the department reporting the amount of fees collected on access line services during the quarter. Except as provided in subsection (4), all fees collected by a service provider must be transmitted to the department no later than the last day of the month following the end of each calendar quarter in which the fees are collected. All fees received by the department must be deposited in the account established in 53-19-310 to the credit of the committee.

(4) Each service provider may deduct and retain 3/4 of 1% of the total fees collected each month to cover its administrative expenses in complying with the requirements of subsection (3).

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 669, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 417, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 325, L. 2007.

53-19-312. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 325, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 669, L. 1989.

53-19-313 and 53-19-314 reserved.

53-19-315. Records — audit. (1) Each service provider required to collect the fee provided for in 53-19-311 shall maintain and have available for inspection by the department books edgers, registers, or other documents showing the collection of the fee for telecommunications access services and specialized telecommunications equipment for persons with disabilities for the preceding 5 years or until any dispute or litigation concerning the fees is resolved, whichever is later.

(2) At the request of the committee or on its own initiative, the department or a third party designated by the department may audit the records of any service provider to ensure proper accounting of all fees billed and collected pursuant to 53-19-311. Any expenses of the audit must be paid by the program.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

53-19-316. Service provider required to hold fee in trust for state penalty and interest. (1) Each service provider required to collect the fee imposed by 53-19-311 holds the fee in trust for the state of Montana and for payment of the fee to the department as provided in 53-19-311.

(2) (a) A service provider that fails to file the return required in 53-19-311 must be assessed a penalty as provided in 15-1-216. The department may waive any penalty as provided in 15-1-206.

(b) A service provider that fails to make payment or fails to report and make payment as required by 53-19-311 must be assessed penalty and interest as provided in 15-1-216. The department may waive any penalty pursuant to 15-1-206.

(c) Interest on fees not paid when due is assessed in the same manner as taxes not paid when due as provided in 15-1-216.

(3) (a) If a service provider fails to file the return required by 53-19-311 or if the department determines that the report understates the amount of fees due, the department may determine the amount of the fees due and assess that amount against the service provider. The provisions of 15-1-211 apply to any assessment by the department. The service provider may seek review of the assessment pursuant to 15-1-211.

(b) When a deficiency is determined and the amount due becomes final, the department shall mail a notice and demand for payment to the owner or operator. Penalty and interest must be added to any deficiency as provided in 15-1-216.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

53-19-317. Credit or refund for overpayment — interest on overpayment. (1) If the department determines that the amount of fees, penalty, or interest paid for any year is more than the amount due, the amount of the overpayments must be credited against any fees, penalty, or interest then due from the service provider and the balance refunded to the service provider or the service provider's successor through reorganization, merger, or consolidation or to the service provider's shareholders upon dissolution.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), interest is allowed on overpayments at the same rate as is charged on deficiency assessments as provided in 15-1-216 from the due date of the return or from the date of overpayment, whichever date is later, to the date the department approved refunding or crediting of the overpayment.

(3) (a) Interest does not accrue during any period in which the processing of a claim for a refund is delayed more than 30 days by reason of failure of the service provider to furnish information requested by the department for the purpose of verifying the amount of the overpayment.

(b) Interest is not allowed if:

(i) the overpayment is refunded within 6 months from the date the return is due or from the date the return is filed, whichever is later; or

(ii) the amount of interest is less than $1.

(c) Only a payment made incident to a bona fide and orderly discharge of actual liability is considered an overpayment with respect to which interest is allowed.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 325, L. 2007.**

53-19-318. Statute of limitations. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a deficiency may not be assessed or collected with respect to the year for which a return is filed unless the notice of the additional fee proposed to be assessed is mailed within 5 years from the date the return was filed. For purposes of this section, a return filed before the last day prescribed for filing is considered as filed on the last day. If the service provider, before the expiration of the period prescribed for assessment of the fee, consents in writing to an assessment after that time, the fee may be assessed at any time prior to the expiration of the period agreed upon.

(2) A refund or credit may not be allowed or paid with respect to the year for which a return is filed after 5 years from the last day prescribed for filing the return or after 1 year from the date of the overpayment, whichever period expires later, unless before the expiration of the period the service provider files a claim or the department determines the existence of the overpayment and approves the refund or credit. If the service provider has agreed in writing under the provisions of subsection (1) to extend the time within which the department may propose an additional assessment, the period within which a claim for refund or credit may be filed or a credit or refund is allowed if no claim is filed is automatically extended.

(3) If a return is required to be filed and the service provider fails to file the return, the fee may be assessed or an action to collect the fee may be brought at any time. If a return is required to be filed and the service provider files a fraudulent return, the 5-year period provided for in subsection (1) does not begin until discovery of the fraud by the department.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 325, L. 2007.

53-19-319. Service provider considered taxpayer under provisions for fee. Unless the context requires otherwise, the provisions of Title 15 referring to the audit and examination of reports and returns, determination of deficiency assessments, claims for refunds, penalties and interest, jeopardy assessments, warrants, conferences, appeals to the department, appeals to the Montana tax appeal board, and procedures relating to the application of this part apply as if the fee imposed in this part were a tax imposed upon or measured by net income. The provisions apply to the subscriber liable for the fee and to the service provider required to collect the fee. Any amount collected and required to be remitted to the department is considered a tax upon the service provider required to collect it, and the service provider is considered a taxpayer.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 325, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 142, L. 2021.

Part 4
Newborn Hearing Screening

Part Cross-References

Pregnant women and newborn infants, Title 50, ch. 19.

53-19-401. Purpose. The purposes of this part are:

(1) to provide early detection of hearing loss in newborn infants as soon after birth as possible to enable children, their families, and primary health care providers to obtain any necessary multidisciplinary evaluation, audiologic assessment, treatment, and intervention services at the earliest opportunity and to prevent or mitigate the developmental delays and academic failures associated with late identification of hearing loss; and

(2) to provide the state with the necessary information to effectively plan, establish, and evaluate a comprehensive system of appropriate services for infants and children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2007.

53-19-402. Statewide universal newborn hearing screening, tracking, and intervention program. (1) There is a universal newborn hearing screening program in the department of public health and human services. The department shall implement the program to ensure a hearing screening test for all newborn infants for identification of newborn infant hearing loss. The department shall implement the program to ensure newborn hearing screening tests are completed before discharge from a hospital or no later than 1 month after birth.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to:

(a) ensure that each licensed hospital, health care facility, or health care provider providing obstetric services:

(i) complete newborn hearing screenings for all infants before discharge or no later than 1 month after birth and report the results to each infant's primary care provider, including any recommendation for audiologic assessment for an infant with two failed hearing screenings; and

(ii) provide required education regarding hearing screenings and hearing loss;

(b) ensure monitoring of all babies screened in Montana and referred for audiologic assessment to ensure that they receive an audiologic assessment by 3 months of age;

(c) establish newborn hearing screening protocols that are objective and physiologically based;

(d) establish education protocols;

(e) establish reporting requirements that are related to newborn infant hearing screening, recommendation for audiologic assessment, and audiologic assessment results; and

(f) ensure the electronic sharing of audiologic evaluation information of infants diagnosed as deaf or hard-of-hearing with the Montana school for the deaf and blind, pursuant to the school's responsibility for intervention tracking as provided in 20-8-102.

(3) The department shall assist each licensed hospital, health care facility, or health care provider providing obstetric services in developing systems for reporting and in accessing funds to purchase hearing screening equipment by providing information on funding sources known to the department.

(4) The department may accept contributions, gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources for the use and benefit of this program.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 250, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 251, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Telecommunications services — assistance in obtaining hearing screening equipment for infant testing, 53-19-306.

53-19-403. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 251, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 250, L. 2001.

53-19-404. Required education — screening — reporting. (1) Each licensed hospital, health care facility, or health care provider that provides obstetric services shall provide education to parents of infants born in the hospital or health care facility of the importance of screening the hearing of newborn infants and providing followup care.

(2) Every licensed hospital or health care facility that provides obstetric services shall:

(a) perform newborn hearing screenings, including screening of infants transferred into the hospital or health care facility from another hospital or health care facility, unless the transferring facility has already performed the screening;

(b) report monthly to the department the following information:

(i) the infants born in the hospital or born outside of the hospital and transported or transferred to the hospital or health care facility;

(ii) the infants screened, including those infants born outside of the hospital or health care facility and transported or transferred to it from another hospital or health care facility or screened as part of a cooperative agreement with health care providers providing obstetric services in their service area;

(iii) the infants not screened and the reason each infant was not screened, in accordance with reporting requirements;

(iv) the infants who passed the screening; and

(v) the infants who do not pass their screenings and the contact information for the primary care provider who was notified of the screening results for each infant who did not pass the screenings.

(3) Every licensed audiologist performing audiologic evaluations of infants identified by hearing screening as needing audiologic assessment shall report monthly to the department the following information:

(a) the identity of infants referred to them for audiologic assessment;

(b) the referring person or health care facility;

(c) the birthing facility in which the infant was born; and

(d) the results of the audiologic assessment of each infant referred to them.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 250, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 251, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 20
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Part 1 — Treatment

53-20-101. Purpose.
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53-20-106. Certification of developmental disabilities professionals.
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Part 3 — Community Homes

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53-20-302. Definition of community home — limitation on number of residents.
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53-20-501. Repealed.
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53-20-601. Definitions.
53-20-602. Intensive behavior center limitations.
53-20-603. Licensing.
53-20-604. Rulemaking authority.

Chapter Cross-References

Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Discrimination in anatomical gifts and organ transplants, Title 49, ch. 4, part 6.
Fishing permits, 87-2-803.

Part 1
Treatment

53-20-101. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:

(1) secure for each person who may be a person with developmental disabilities such treatment and habilitation as will be suited to the needs of the person and to assure that such treatment and habilitation are skillfully and humanely administered with full respect for the person's dignity and personal integrity;

(2) accomplish this goal whenever possible in a community-based setting;

(3) accomplish this goal in an institutionalized setting only when less restrictive alternatives are unavailable or inadequate and only when a person is so severely disabled as to require institutionalized care; and

(4) assure that due process of law is accorded any person coming under the provisions of this part.

History: **En. 38-1201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1201; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.**

53-20-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Available" means:

(i) that services of an identified provider or providers have been found to be necessary and appropriate for the habilitation of a specific person by the person's individual treatment planning team;

(ii) that funding for the services has been identified and committed for the person's immediate use; and

(iii) that all providers have offered the necessary services for the person's immediate use.

(b) A service is not available simply because similar services are offered by one or more providers in one or more locations to other individuals or because the person has been placed on a waiting list for services or funding.

(2) "Board" or "mental disabilities board of visitors" means the mental disabilities board of visitors created by 2-15-211.

(3) "Case manager" means a person who is responsible for service coordination, planning and crisis intervention for persons who are eligible for community-based developmental disabilities services from the department of public health and human services.

(4) "Census" means the number of residents occupying beds in a residential facility on a particular date.

(5) "Community treatment plan" means a comprehensive, individualized plan of care that addresses the habilitation needs of and the risks posed by the behaviors of a respondent who is found to be seriously developmentally disabled.

(6) "Community-based facilities" or "community-based services" means those facilities and services that are available for the evaluation, treatment, and habilitation of persons with developmental disabilities in a community setting.

(7) "Court" means a district court of the state of Montana.

(8) "Developmental disabilities professional" means a licensed psychologist, a licensed psychiatrist, or a person with a master's degree in psychology, who:

(a) has training and experience in psychometric testing and evaluation;

(b) has experience in the field of developmental disabilities; and

(c) is certified, as provided in 53-20-106, by the department of public health and human services.

(9) "Developmental disability" means a disability that:

(a) is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or any other neurologically disabling condition closely related to intellectual disability;

(b) requires treatment similar to that required by intellectually disabled individuals;

(c) originated before the individual attained age 18;

(d) has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely; and

(e) results in the person having a substantial disability.

(10) "Habilitation" means the process by which a person who has a developmental disability is assisted in acquiring and maintaining those life skills that enable the person to cope more effectively with personal needs and the demands of the environment and in raising the level of the person's physical, mental, and social efficiency. Habilitation includes but is not limited to formal, structured education and treatment.

(11) "Individual treatment planning team" means the interdisciplinary team of persons involved in and responsible for the habilitation of a resident. The resident is a member of the team.

(12) "Next of kin" includes but is not limited to the spouse, parents, adult children, and adult brothers and sisters of a person.

(13) "Qualified intellectual disability professional" means a professional program staff person for the residential facility who the department of public health and human services determines meets the professional requirements necessary for federal certification of the facility

(14) "Resident" means a person committed to a residential facility.

(15) "Residential facility" or "facility" means:

(a) the Montana developmental center; or

(b) a private, community-based facility approved by the department of public health and uman services as a facility able to meet the needs of individuals committed to a residential acility pursuant to this chapter or placed in a residential facility pursuant to Title 46, chapter 4.

(16) "Residential facility screening team" means a team of persons, appointed as provided n 53-20-133, that is responsible for screening a respondent to determine if the commitment f the respondent to a residential facility or the imposition of a community treatment plan is ppropriate.

(17) "Respondent" means a person alleged in a petition filed pursuant to this part to e seriously developmentally disabled and for whom the petition requests commitment to a esidential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan.

(18) "Responsible person" means a person willing and able to assume responsibility for a erson who is seriously developmentally disabled or alleged to be seriously developmentally isabled.

(19) "Seriously developmentally disabled" means a person who:

(a) has a developmental disability;

(b) is impaired in cognitive functioning; and

(c) cannot be safely and effectively habilitated through voluntary use of community-based ervices because of behaviors that pose an imminent risk of serious harm to self or others.

History: En. 38-1202 by Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 1977; .C.M. 1947, 38-1202(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 467, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 575, L. 2003; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 68, L. 2013; md. Sec. 7, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

ross-References

Mental impairment defined similarly to developmentally disabled, 39-30-103.

Developmental disabilities defined for purposes of community-based services, 53-20-202.

53-20-103. Residential institution to meet standards. No person shall be admitted to ny publicly supported residential institution caring for persons with developmental disabilities nless such institution meets the standards prescribed by this part.

History: En. 38-1231 by Sec. 31, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1231; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-104. Powers and duties of mental disabilities board of visitors. (1) The board s an independent board of inquiry and review established to ensure that the treatment of all ersons committed to the Montana developmental center is humane and decent and meets the equirements set forth in this part.

(2) The board shall review all plans for experimental research or hazardous treatment rocedures involving persons committed to the Montana developmental center to ensure that the esearch project is humane and not unduly hazardous and that it complies with the principles f the statement on the use of human subjects for research of the American association on nental deficiency and with the principles for research involving human subjects required by he United States department of health and human services. An experimental research project nvolving Montana developmental center residents affected by this part may not begin unless it s approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors.

(3) The board shall investigate all cases of alleged mistreatment of a Montana levelopmental center resident.

(4) The board shall inspect the Montana developmental center at least annually. The oard shall inspect the physical plant, including residential, recreational, dining, and sanitary acilities. It shall visit all wards and treatment or habilitation areas. The board shall inquire oncerning all habilitation programs being implemented by the facility.

(5) The board shall inspect the file of each person committed to the Montana developmental enter pursuant to this part to ensure that a habilitation plan exists and is being implemented. The board shall inquire concerning all use of restraints, isolation, or other extraordinary neasures.

(6) The board may assist a Montana developmental center resident in resolving a rievance the resident may have concerning the resident's commitment or course of treatment nd habilitation in the facility.

(7) If the board believes that the Montana developmental center is failing to comply wit the provisions of this part in regard to its physical facilities or its treatment of a resident, i shall report its findings at once to the superintendent of the facility and the director of th department of public health and human services. If appropriate, after waiting a reasonabl time for a response from the superintendent or the director, the board may notify the parents o guardian of the resident involved, the next of kin, if known, the responsible person appointed b the court for the resident involved, and the district court that has jurisdiction over the facility.

(8) The board shall report annually to the governor concerning the status of the Montan developmental center and its habilitation programs.

History: En. 38-1232 by Sec. 32, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1232(2 thru (7); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec 3, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 468, Ch. 546, L. 1995 amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

53-20-105. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 569, L. 1983.

53-20-106. Certification of developmental disabilities professionals. (1) A developmental disabilities professional must be certified by the department of public health an human services.

(2) The department of public health and human services shall adopt rules governin the certification of developmental disabilities professionals. The rules must establish th appropriate combination of education, skills, and experience necessary for certification an set forth qualifications developed by reference to recognized national standards in the field o developmental disabilities.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 569, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec 3, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 469, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-20-107. Department to compile list of qualified developmental disabilitie professionals. The department of public health and human services shall compile an provide to each district court within the state a list of developmental disabilities professional who possess competencies in the evaluation and habilitation of persons with developmenta disabilities.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 343, L. 1981; Sec. 53-20-414, MCA 1985; redes. 53-20-107 by Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Professional person defined, 53-20-102.
Certification of professional persons, 53-21-106.

53-20-108 and 53-20-109 reserved.

53-20-110. Community treatment plan — elements — placement. A court may orde a respondent to be placed in a community treatment plan as a less restrictive alternative t commitment to a residential facility. The plan may include but is not limited to requiring th respondent to:

(1) participate in a specified set of community-based services;

(2) participate in services addressing the risk to self or others, including but not limited t group or individual therapy, staff supervision, psychiatric care, or medication; and

(3) abide by individualized restrictions on the respondent's behavior or other conditions o continued participation that the court finds necessary to protect the respondent or the public including but not limited to residential requirements, restrictions on access to intoxicants o weapons, productive use of free time, limited financial independence, curfew, or authorizatio for providers to share information about the respondent with law enforcement.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 252, L. 2007.

53-20-111. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

History: En. 38-1215 by Sec. 15, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 568, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1215; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

53-20-112. Procedural rights — appointment of counsel. (1) A respondent has all the rights accorded to a person subject to involuntary commitment proceedings under the laws of this state relating to involuntary commitment of a person who suffers from a mental disorder and who requires commitment, as provided in 53-21-115 through 53-21-118.

(2) In addition, the parents or guardian of a respondent has the right to:

(a) be present at any hearing held pursuant to this part;

(b) be represented by counsel in any hearing;

(c) offer evidence and cross-examine witnesses in any hearing; and

(d) have the respondent examined by a professional of the parents' or guardian's choice when a professional is reasonably available unless the person chosen is objected to by the respondent or by a responsible person appointed by the court.

(3) Upon receipt of a petition for commitment, recommitment, or emergency commitment, the court shall order the office of the state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel for the respondent. If the parents are indigent and the parents request it or if the guardian is indigent and the guardian requests it, the court shall order the office of state public defender to assign counsel for the parents or guardian pending a determination of indigence pursuant to 47-1-111.

History: En. 38-1203 by Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1203(1), (2); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

53-20-113. Waiver of rights. (1) A respondent may waive the respondent's procedural rights provided that the waiver is knowingly and intentionally made.

(2) The right to counsel in a hearing held pursuant to 53-20-125 may not be waived.

(3) The right to habilitation provided for in this part may not be waived.

(4) A respondent may knowingly and intentionally waive the respondent's rights only with the concurrence of the respondent's counsel, if any, or, if the respondent has no counsel, the respondent's parents, guardian, or other responsible person appointed by the court.

History: En. 38-1203 by Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1203(3) thru (5); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II. sec. 17, Mont. Const.

Guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

53-20-114. Appointment of responsible person. (1) In a proceeding under this part, the court shall appoint a responsible person to protect the interests of the respondent if the court determines:

(a) that a conflict of interest may exist between the respondent and the respondent's parents or guardian;

(b) that the parents or guardian are unable to protect the interests of the respondent; or

(c) that the respondent has no parent or guardian.

(2) The responsible person may not be an employee of a residential facility.

(3) Only one person may be the responsible person within the meaning of this part.

(4) In appointing a responsible person, the court shall consider the preference of the respondent. The court may at any time, for good cause shown, change its designation of who is the responsible person.

(5) The appointment of the responsible person must terminate at the time of the resident's discharge from the residential facility. The appointment of the responsible person may not terminate during any period of conditional release from the facility.

History: En. 38-1202 by Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1202(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-115. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1212 by Sec. 12, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1212.

53-20-116. Residential facility screening team member — testimony at hearing. In a hearing held pursuant to this part, a member of the residential facility screening team may be required to testify with regard to a determination made by the residential facility screening team.

History: En. 38-1213 by Sec. 13, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1213; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-117. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1214 by Sec. 14, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1214.

53-20-118. Venue for hearing. (1) Except as provided in 53-20-129, hearings held pursuant to this part must be held in the district court for the district in which:

(a) the respondent resides; or

(b) the residential facility to which the respondent is committed or is to be committed is located.

(2) The cost of any hearing held pursuant to this part must be borne by the county where the respondent resides.

History: En. 38-1210 by Sec. 10, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1210; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd Sec. 4, Ch. 252, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

53-20-119. Appeal procedure. Any order issued by a court after a hearing held pursuant to any provision of this part may be appealed to the Montana supreme court in the same manner as for civil appeals generally.

History: En. 38-1211 by Sec. 11, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1211.

53-20-120. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1204 by Sec. 4, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1204.

53-20-121. Petition for involuntary treatment — contents of. (1) A person who believes that there is a person who is seriously developmentally disabled and in need of commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan may request the county attorney to file a petition alleging that the person is seriously developmentally disabled and in need of commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan.

(2) The petition must contain:

(a) the name and address of the person requesting the petition and the person's interest in the case;

(b) the name and address of the respondent;

(c) the name and address of the parents or guardian of the respondent and of any other person believed to be legally responsible for the care, support, and maintenance of the respondent;

(d) the name and address of the respondent's next of kin, to the extent known;

(e) the name and address of any person who the county attorney believes might be willing and able to be appointed as a responsible person;

(f) a description of the relief requested, whether commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan; and

(g) a statement of the rights of the respondent and the respondent's parents or guardian that must be in conspicuous print and identified by a suitable heading.

(3) If the petition requests imposition of a community treatment plan, a copy of the proposed community treatment plan must be attached to the petition.

(4) The county attorney shall immediately mail a copy of the petition to the residential facility screening team, the respondent's parents or guardian, if any, and the respondent's counsel. The county attorney shall ensure that the petition is promptly hand-delivered to the respondent.

History: En. 38-1205 by Sec. 5, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1205(1), (2); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 252, L. 2007.

53-20-122. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1205 by Sec. 5, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1205(3), (4).

53-20-123. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1206 by Sec. 6, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1206; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991.

53-20-124. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 381, L. 1991.

History: En. 38-1207 by Sec. 7, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1207; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 1987.

53-20-125. Outcome of screening — recommendation for commitment or imposition of community treatment plan — hearing. (1) A court may commit a person to a residential facility or impose a community treatment plan only if the person:

(a) is 18 years of age or older; and

(b) is determined to be seriously developmentally disabled and in need of commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan by the residential facility screening team, as provided in 53-20-133, and by a court, as provided in 53-20-129 or in this section.

(2) After the screening required by 53-20-133, the residential facility screening team shall file its written recommendation and report with the court. The report must include the factual basis for the recommendation and must describe any tests or evaluation devices that have been employed in evaluating the respondent. The residential facility screening team shall provide to the court, the county attorney, the respondent's attorney, and any other party requesting it the social and placement information that the team relied on in making its determination.

(3) The residential facility team may recommend commitment to a specific residential facility.

(4) Notice of the determination of the residential facility screening team must be mailed or delivered to:

(a) the respondent;

(b) the respondent's parents, guardian, or next of kin, if known;

(c) the responsible person;

(d) the respondent's advocate, if any;

(e) the county attorney;

(f) the residential facility to which the residential facility screening team has recommended commitment;

(g) the attorney for the respondent, if any; and

(h) the attorney for the parents or guardian, if any.

(5) The respondent, the respondent's parents or guardian, the responsible person, the respondent's advocate, if any, or the attorney for any party may request that a hearing be held on the recommendation of the residential facility screening team. The request for a hearing must be made in writing within 15 days of service of the report.

(6) Notice of the hearing must be mailed or delivered to each of the parties listed in subsection (5).

(7) The hearing must be held before the court without jury. The rules of civil procedure apply.

(8) Upon receiving the report of the residential facility screening team and after a hearing, if one is requested, the court shall enter findings of fact and take one of the following actions:

(a) If both the residential facility screening team and the court find that the respondent is seriously developmentally disabled and in need of commitment to a residential facility, the court shall order the respondent committed to a residential facility for an extended course of treatment and habilitation, subject to the provisions of subsection (12).

(b) If both the residential facility screening team and the court find that the respondent is seriously developmentally disabled but either the residential facility screening team or the court finds that a less restrictive community treatment plan has been proposed, the court may impose a community treatment plan that meets the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4). If the court finds that a community treatment plan proposed by the parties or recommended by the residential facility screening team does not meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4), it may order the respondent committed to a residential facility. The court may not impose a community treatment plan unless the residential facility screening team certifies that all services in the proposed plan meet the conditions of 53-20-133(4)(c) and (4)(d).

(c) If either the residential facility screening team or the court finds that the respondent has a developmental disability but is not seriously developmentally disabled, the court shall dismiss the petition and refer the respondent to the department of public health and human services to be considered for placement in voluntary community-based services according to 53-20-209.

(d) If either the residential facility screening team or the court finds that the responden does not have a developmental disability or is not in need of developmental disabilities services the court shall dismiss the petition.

(9) (a) If the residential facility screening team recommends commitment to a residentia facility or imposition of a community treatment plan and none of the parties notified of th recommendation request a hearing within 15 days of service of the screening team's report, th court may:

(i) issue an order committing the respondent to the residential facility for an extende period of treatment and habilitation;

(ii) issue an order imposing a community treatment plan that the court finds meets th conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4); or

(iii) initiate its own inquiry as to whether an order should be granted.

(b) The court may not impose a community treatment plan unless the residentia facility screening team certifies that all services in the proposed plan meet the conditions i 53-20-133(4)(c) and (4)(d).

(10) The court may refuse to authorize commitment of a respondent to a residential facilit for an extended period of treatment and habilitation if commitment is not in the best interest of the respondent.

(11) A court order entered in a proceeding under this part must be provided to the residentia facility screening team.

(12) (a) A court may not commit a respondent to a residential facility unless the facilit has confirmed in writing that admission of the respondent will not cause the census at th residential facility to exceed its licensed capacity.

(b) After December 31, 2016, a court may not commit a respondent to the Montan developmental center.

History: En. 38-1208 by Sec. 8, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 1977 R.C.M. 1947, 38-1208(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 470, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 2007; amd Sec. 6, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

53-20-126. Maximum period of commitment or treatment plan. The court orde approving the commitment to a residential facility or the imposition of the community treatmen plan must specify the maximum period of time for which the person is committed or for whic a community treatment plan is imposed. Except as provided in 53-20-602 for an individua committed to the intensive behavior center, the maximum period may not exceed 90 days fo commitment to a residential facility or 1 year for the imposition of a community treatment plan

History: En. 38-1209 by Sec. 9, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1209(1) (2); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch 258, L. 2017.

53-20-127. Transfer to another facility — release to community-based alternative — hearing. (1) If, at any time during the period for which a resident is committed to a residentia facility for an extended period of habilitation and treatment, the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for the resident's habilitation decides that the resident no longe requires placement in a residential facility and that there exist sufficient community-based alternatives to provide adequate treatment and habilitation for the resident and adequate protection of the life and physical safety of the resident and others, the qualified intellectual disability professional may release the resident to the community-based alternative.

(2) Notice of the proposed release must be sent at least 15 days prior to the date of release to:

(a) the resident;

(b) the resident's parents or guardian;

(c) the attorney who most recently represented the resident, if any;

(d) the responsible person appointed by the court, if any;

(e) the resident's advocate, if any; and

(f) the court that ordered the commitment.

(3) If a party that was notified objects to the release, the party may petition the court fo a hearing to determine whether the release should be allowed. The hearing must comply with the procedures set forth in 53-20-125. The court may on its own initiative inquire concerning the propriety of the release.

(4) A resident may be transferred without the notice provided in subsection (2) to a hospital or other medical facility for necessary medical treatment or to a mental health facility for emergency treatment provided that the emergency transfer complies with the statutory requirements for emergency detention of the mentally ill. Within 24 hours of an emergency medical or psychiatric transfer, notice must be given to the parents or guardian of the resident, the responsible person appointed by the court, if any, and the court.

(5) If a person is committed to a residential facility for an extended course of habilitation without a hearing and if subsequent to commitment one of the parties who could have requested a hearing learns that an alternative course of treatment is available that is more suitable to the needs of the resident, the party may request the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for the resident's habilitation to release the resident to the alternative if it is a community-based alternative. A release must comply with the requirements of subsections (1) through (4). If the qualified intellectual disability professional in charge of the resident refuses to authorize the release, the party may petition the court for a hearing to determine whether the resident's commitment should be continued. The hearing must comply with the procedures set forth in 53-20-125.

History: (1)En. 38-1209 by Sec. 9, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1209, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 38-1208 by Sec. 8, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1208, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1208(5), 38-1209(3); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 68, L. 2013.

53-20-128. Recommitment — extension of community treatment plan. (1) The qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for a resident's habilitation or the case manager responsible for habilitation of a person under a community treatment plan may request that the county attorney file a petition for recommitment or extension of the order imposing the community treatment plan.

(2) A petition for recommitment or extension must be filed with the district court before the end of the current period of commitment or the expiration of the order imposing the current community treatment plan.

(3) A petition for recommitment or extension of a community treatment plan must be accompanied by a written report containing the recommendation of the qualified intellectual disability professional or case manager and a summary of the current habilitation plan or community treatment plan for the respondent.

(4) The petition must be reviewed in accordance with 53-20-133 by the residential facility screening team.

(5) Copies of the petition for recommitment and the report of the qualified intellectual disability professional or case manager must be sent to:

(a) the court that issued the current order;
(b) the residential facility screening team;
(c) the resident;
(d) the resident's parents or guardian or next of kin, if any;
(e) the attorney who most recently represented the resident, if any;
(f) the responsible person appointed by the court, if any; and
(g) the resident's advocate, if any.

(6) The provisions of 53-20-125 apply to a petition for recommitment or extension of an order imposing a community treatment plan.

(7) If either the court or the residential facility screening team finds that the respondent has been placed voluntarily in community-based services or that the need for developmental disabilities services no longer exists, the court shall dismiss the petition.

(8) The court may not order recommitment to a residential facility that does not have an individualized habilitation plan for the resident.

(9) The court may not extend an order imposing a community treatment plan unless the residential facility screening team certifies that all services in the proposed plan meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4)(c) and (4)(d).

History: En. 38-1209 by Sec. 9, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1209(4), (5); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 417, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 471, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 68, L. 2013.

53-20-129. Emergency admission and commitment. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), a person believed to be seriously developmentally disabled may be admitted to a residential facility or a temporary court-ordered community treatment plan may be imposed on an emergency basis without notice to the person or approval by the residential facility screening team when necessary to protect the person or others from death or serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101.

(2) An emergency admission to a residential facility may be initiated only by a developmental disabilities professional.

(3) (a) An emergency admission to a residential facility may not proceed unless the residential facility has confirmed in writing that admission of the person will not cause the census at the facility to exceed its licensed capacity and that the facility can accommodate the emergency needs of the person.

(b) After December 31, 2016, an emergency admission may not be made to the Montana developmental center.

(4) A petition for emergency commitment must be filed on the next judicial day after an emergency admission to a residential facility by the county attorney of the county where the respondent resides.

(5) A petition for imposition of an emergency community treatment plan may be filed by the county attorney of the county where the respondent resides and must include or have attached the written report of a case manager. Any temporary community treatment plan must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4).

(6) The residential facility screening team shall report back to the court on the seventh judicial day following the filing of the petition for emergency commitment or imposition of a temporary community treatment plan.

(7) Once the report of the residential facility screening team is received by the court, continued placement in the residential facility or continued imposition of the temporary community treatment plan may not continue without an order of the court for emergency commitment or continued imposition of the community treatment plan.

(8) A court may order an emergency commitment or continue a temporary community treatment plan only when the residential facility screening team has recommended and the court has determined that the emergency commitment or continued imposition of a community treatment plan is necessary to protect the respondent or others from death or serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101. Any temporary community treatment plan must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4).

(9) An order for emergency commitment or continued imposition of a temporary community treatment plan may be entered without a hearing before the court if the court finds that the record supports the order.

(10) An emergency commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a temporary community treatment plan may not continue for longer than 30 days after placement in the residential facility or imposition of a temporary community treatment plan unless a petition for an extended commitment to the residential facility or for imposition of a community treatment plan as provided in 53-20-121 has been filed.

History: En. 38-1216 by Sec. 16, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 568, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1216; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

53-20-130. Patient transfers from mental health facilities. If a person is a patient in a mental health facility and the professional person, as defined in 53-21-102, in charge of the patient determines that the patient is suffering from a developmental disability rather than mental illness and should more properly be committed to a residential facility or an appropriate less restrictive alternative, the professional person shall commence proceedings to effect a commitment, consistent with the procedures set forth in this part for commitments generally.

History: En. 38-1233 by Sec. 33, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1233; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-131. Placement in nonstate facility. (1) Consistent with other provisions of this part, a person admitted to a residential facility under this part for a period of more than 30 days may be committed by the court to the custody of friends or next of kin residing outside the state or transferred to an out-of-state facility for the habilitation of persons who are persons with developmental disabilities if the out-of-state facility agrees to receive the person. The commitment or transfer may not be for a longer period of time than is permitted within Montana. If the person is indigent, the expense of supporting the person in an out-of-state facility and the expense of transportation must be borne by the state of Montana.

(2) The transfer of persons admitted to a residential facility outside of Montana under the provisions of this part or into Montana under the laws of another jurisdiction must be governed by the provisions of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health.

History: En. 38-1218 by Sec. 18, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1218; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1907, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-20-132. Court-ordered placement in community-based services prohibited except through statutory process. This part may not be construed as authorizing the placement of and delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities in community-based services by court order, except by imposing a community treatment plan pursuant to this part. Placement of persons in voluntary community-based services is governed by 53-20-209.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 252, L. 2007.

53-20-133. Residential facility screening team — referral by court — membership — rules. (1) When the district court receives a petition for commitment to a residential facility or for imposition of a community treatment plan under this part, the court, prior to proceeding, shall refer the respondent to the residential facility screening team for screening to determine whether commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan is appropriate for the respondent.

(2) A court may not commit a respondent to a residential facility or impose a community treatment plan under 53-20-125, 53-20-128, or 53-20-129 unless the residential facility screening team determines that commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan is appropriate for the respondent.

(3) The residential facility screening team may not determine that commitment to a residential facility or imposition of a community treatment plan is appropriate on an extended basis unless the residential facility screening team determines that the respondent is seriously developmentally disabled.

(4) The residential facility screening team may not recommend imposition of a community treatment plan unless it finds that the proposed plan:

(a) provides adequate assurances of safety from the consequences of the behaviors of the respondent for both the respondent and the community;

(b) provides effective habilitation services for the respondent's developmental disability;

(c) is funded from public or private sources that are identified, committed, and available to pay for all of the proposed services to the respondent; and

(d) ensures services from identified, qualified providers that are committed and available to provide all of the proposed services to the respondent.

(5) For purposes of this part, the department of public health and human services shall adopt rules providing for the membership and terms of the members of the residential facility screening team and setting forth the criteria and procedures to govern the determinations made by the residential facility screening team.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 472, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-20-134. Court records to be kept separate — sealed — names omitted. Records and papers in proceedings under this part must be maintained separately by each clerk of court. Five days prior to the release of a respondent or resident committed to a residential facility, the facility shall notify the appropriate clerk of court, and the clerk shall immediately seal the record in the case and omit the name of the respondent or resident from the index or indexes of cases in the court unless the court orders the record opened for good cause shown.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 2007.

53-20-135 through 53-20-139 reserved.

53-20-140. Amendment to commitment order or treatment plan — emergency amendment. (1) A community treatment plan ordered pursuant to 53-20-125 or 53-20-128 may be amended with the consensus of the respondent's individual treatment planning team, including the respondent, without further order of the court. The amended plan must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4).

(2) An order of commitment to a residential facility may be amended to an order imposing a community treatment plan with the consensus of the respondent's individual treatment planning team, including the respondent, and the court shall issue an order imposing the agreed-upon community treatment plan. The community treatment plan must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4).

(3) Any party may request amendment of a commitment ordered or a community treatment plan imposed under 53-20-125 or 53-20-128 by bringing the matter to the attention of the respondent's individual treatment planning team. If consensus is not reached, any party may request a hearing on a proposed amendment. The court shall request an evaluation of any proposed amendment by the residential facility screening team prior to the hearing.

(4) After a hearing or upon the agreement of the parties on an amendment of a commitment or an order imposing a community treatment plan, the court may make any order which is authorized in 53-20-125, including:

(a) adding, removing, or modifying conditions of a community treatment plan;

(b) substituting commitment to a residential facility for a community treatment plan; or

(c) substituting imposition of a community treatment plan for commitment to a residential facility.

(5) Any community treatment plan imposed as a result of a request for amendment must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4). The court may not impose a community treatment plan unless the residential facility screening team certifies that all services in the proposed plan meet the conditions of 53-20-133(4)(c) and (4)(d).

(6) If the court finds probable cause to believe that the respondent or others are in imminent risk of death or serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101, the court may order a temporary amendment to a community treatment plan, for a period of up to 7 calendar days, without notice to the respondent. A hearing must be scheduled within the 7-day period of the temporary amendment. Any temporarily amended community treatment plan must meet the conditions set forth in 53-20-133(4). The court may not amend a community treatment plan for an extended period unless the residential facility screening team certifies that all services in the proposed amended plan meet the conditions of 53-20-133(4)(c) and (4)(d). The court may not order emergency commitment to a residential facility except through the process set forth in 53-20-129.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 252, L. 2007.

53-20-141. Denial of legal rights. (1) Unless specifically stated in an order by the court, a person committed to a residential facility or for whom a community treatment plan has been imposed for an extended course of habilitation does not forfeit any legal right or suffer any legal disability by reason of the provisions of this part, except to the extent that it may be necessary to detain the person for habilitation, evaluation, or care.

(2) Whenever a person is admitted to a residential facility or a community treatment plan is imposed for the person for a period of more than 30 days, the court ordering the commitment or imposing the community treatment plan may make an order stating specifically any legal rights that are denied and any legal disabilities that are imposed on the respondent. As part of its order, the court may appoint a person to act as conservator of the respondent's property. Any conservatorship created pursuant to this section terminates upon the conclusion of the commitment or expiration of the order imposing the community treatment plan if not previously terminated by the court. A conservatorship or guardianship extending beyond the period of the commitment or order imposing a community treatment plan may not be created except according to the procedures set forth under Montana law for the appointment of conservators and guardians generally.

(3) A person who has been committed to a residential facility or for whom a community treatment plan has been imposed pursuant to this part is, upon the termination of the commitment or expiration of the order imposing the community treatment plan, automatically restored to all of the person's civil and legal rights that may have been lost when the person was committed or the community treatment plan was imposed. However, this subsection does not affect any guardianship or conservatorship created independently of the proceedings according to the provisions of Montana law relating to the appointment of conservators and guardians generally. Upon termination of any commitment or order imposing a community treatment plan under this part, the qualified intellectual disability professional or case manager in charge of the person's care shall give the person a written statement setting forth the substance of this subsection.

History: En. 38-1217 by Sec. 17, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1217; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 252, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 68, L. 2013.

Cross-References

When person entitled to bring action is under a disability, 27-2-401.

Guardians of incapacitated persons, Title 72, ch. 5, part 3.

53-20-142. Rights while in residential facility. Persons admitted to a residential facility for a period of habilitation have the following rights:

(1) Residents have a right to dignity, privacy, and humane care.

(2) Residents are entitled to send and receive sealed mail. Moreover, it is the duty of the facility to foster the exercise of this right by furnishing the necessary materials and assistance.

(3) Residents must have the same rights and access to private telephone communication as patients at any public hospital except to the extent that the individual treatment planning team or the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for formulation of a particular resident's habilitation plan writes an order imposing special restrictions and explains the reasons for the restrictions. The written order must be renewed monthly if any restrictions are to be continued.

(4) Residents have an unrestricted right to visitation except to the extent that the individual treatment planning team or the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for formulation of a particular resident's habilitation plan writes an order imposing special restrictions and explains the reasons for the restrictions. The written order must be renewed monthly if restrictions are to be continued.

(5) Residents have a right to receive suitable educational and habilitation services regardless of chronological age, degree of intellectual disability, or accompanying disabilities.

(6) Each resident must have an adequate allowance of neat, clean, suitably fitting, and seasonable clothing. Except when a particular kind of clothing is required because of a particular condition, residents must have the opportunity to select from various types of neat, clean, and seasonable clothing. The clothing must be considered the resident's throughout the resident's stay in the facility. Clothing, both in amount and type, must make it possible for residents to go out of doors in inclement weather, to go for trips or visits appropriately dressed, and to make a normal appearance in the community. The facility shall make provision for the adequate and regular laundering of the residents' clothing.

(7) Each resident has the right to keep and use the resident's own personal possessions except insofar as the clothes or personal possessions may be determined by the individual treatment planning team or the qualified intellectual disability professional to be dangerous either to the resident or to others.

(8) Each resident has a right to a humane physical environment within the residential facility. The facility must be designed to make a positive contribution to the efficient attainment of the habilitation goals of the resident. To accomplish this purpose:

(a) regular housekeeping and maintenance procedures that will ensure that the facility is maintained in a safe, clean, and attractive condition must be developed and implemented;

(b) pursuant to an established routine maintenance and repair program, the physical plant must be kept in a continuous state of good repair and operation so as to ensure the health, comfort, safety, and well-being of the residents and so as not to impede in any manner the habilitation programs of the residents;

(c) the physical facilities must meet all fire and safety standards established by the state and locality. In addition, the facility must meet the provisions of the life safety code of the national fire protection association that are applicable to it.

(d) there must be special facilities for nonambulatory residents to ensure their safety and comfort, including special fittings on toilets and wheelchairs. Appropriate provision must be made to permit nonambulatory residents to communicate their needs to staff.

(9) Residents have a right to receive prompt and adequate medical treatment for any physical or mental ailments or injuries or physical disabilities and for the prevention of any illness or disability. The medical treatment must meet standards of medical practice in the community. However, nothing in this subsection may be interpreted to impair other rights of a resident in regard to involuntary commitment for mental illness, use of psychotropic medication, use of hazardous, aversive, or experimental procedures, or the refusal of treatment.

(10) Corporal punishment is not permitted.

(11) The opportunity for religious worship must be accorded to each resident who desires worship. Provisions for religious worship must be made available to all residents on a nondiscriminatory basis. An individual may not be compelled to engage in any religious activities.

(12) Residents have a right to a nourishing, well-balanced diet. The diet for residents must provide at a minimum the recommended daily dietary allowance as developed by the national academy of sciences. Provisions must be made for special therapeutic diets and for substitutes at the request of the resident, the resident's parents, guardian, or next of kin, or the responsible person appointed by the court in accordance with the religious requirements of any resident's faith. Denial of a nutritionally adequate diet may not be used as punishment.

(13) Residents have a right to regular physical exercise several times a week. It is the duty of the facility to provide both indoor and outdoor facilities and equipment for exercise. Residents have a right to be outdoors daily in the absence of contrary medical considerations.

(14) Residents have a right, under appropriate supervision, to suitable opportunities for the interaction with members of the opposite sex, as defined in 1-1-201, except when the individual treatment planning team or the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for the formulation of a particular resident's habilitation plan writes an order to the contrary and explains the reasons for the order. The order must be renewed monthly if the restriction is to be continued.

History: En. 38-1221 by Sec. 21, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1221; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 35, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendmen effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Institutions and assistance, Art. XII, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

53-20-143. Right not to be fingerprinted. No person admitted to or in a residential facility shall be fingerprinted unless required by other provisions of law.

History: En. 38-1219 by Sec. 19, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1219.

53-20-144. Rights concerning photographs. (1) A person admitted to a residential facility may be photographed upon admission for identification, medical, habilitative, and administrative purposes of the facility. Such photographs shall be confidential and shall not be released by the facility except pursuant to court order.

(2) No other nonmedical or nonhabilitative photographs shall be taken or used without consent of the resident's parents or guardian or the responsible person appointed by the court.

History: En. 38-1220 by Sec. 20, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1220; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 485, L. 1979.

53-20-145. Right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication. Residents have a right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication. Medication may not be administered unless at the written order of a physician. The individual treatment planning team and the attending physician are responsible for all medication given or administered to a resident. The use of medication may not exceed standards of use that are advocated by the United States food and drug administration. Notation of each individual's medication must be kept in the individual's medical records. A pharmacist or a registered nurse shall review monthly the record of each resident on medication for potential adverse reactions, allergies, interactions, contraindications, rationality, and laboratory test modifications and shall advise the physician of any problems. Medications must be reviewed quarterly by the attending or staff physician. At least monthly, an attending physician shall review the drug regimen of each patient on psychotropic medication. All prescriptions must be written with a termination date that may not exceed 90 days. Medication for newly admitted residents must be reviewed and reordered as necessary upon admission and then every 30 days for the first 90 days. Medications may not be used as punishment, for the convenience of staff, as a substitute for a habilitation program, or in quantities that interfere with the resident's treatment program. This section may not be interpreted to relieve a physician or other professional or medical staff person from any obligation to adequately monitor the medication of a resident, with due consideration to the nature of the medication, the purpose for which it is given, and the condition of the resident.

History: **En. 38-1226 by Sec. 26, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1226; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1908, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-20-146. Right not to be subjected to certain treatment procedures. (1) Residents of a residential facility have a right not to be subjected to unusual or hazardous treatment procedures without the express and informed consent of the resident, if the resident is able to give consent, and of the resident's parents or guardian or the responsible person appointed by the court after opportunities for consultation with independent specialists and legal counsel. Proposed procedures must first have been reviewed and approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors before consent is sought.

(2) Physical restraint may be employed only when absolutely necessary to protect the resident from injury or to prevent injury to others. Mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position and balance that are ordered by a physician are not considered a physical restraint. Restraint may not be employed as punishment, for the convenience of staff, or as a substitute for a habilitation program. Restraint may be applied only if alternative techniques have failed and only if the restraint imposes the least possible restriction consistent with its purpose. Use of restraints may be authorized by a physician, a developmental disabilities professional, or a qualified intellectual disability professional. Orders for restraints must be in writing and may not be in force for longer than 12 hours. Whenever physical restraint is ordered, suitable provision must be made for the comfort and physical needs of the resident restrained.

(3) Seclusion, defined as the placement of a resident alone in a locked room for nontherapeutic purposes, may not be employed. Legitimate "time out" procedures may be used under close and direct professional supervision as a technique in behavior-shaping programs.

(4) Behavior modification programs involving the use of noxious or aversive stimuli must be reviewed and approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors and may be conducted only with the express and informed consent of the affected resident, if the resident is able to give consent, and of the resident's parents or guardian or the responsible person appointed by the court after opportunities for consultation with independent specialists and with legal counsel. These behavior modification programs may be conducted only under the supervision of and in the presence of a qualified intellectual disability professional who has had proper training.

(5) A resident may not be subjected to a behavior modification program that attempts to extinguish socially appropriate behavior or to develop new behavior patterns when the behavior modifications serve only institutional convenience.

(6) Electric shock devices are considered a research technique for the purpose of this part. Electric shock devices may be used only in extraordinary circumstances to prevent self-mutilation leading to repeated and possibly permanent physical damage to the resident and only after alternative techniques have failed. The use of electric shock devices is subject to the conditions prescribed by this part for experimental research generally and may be used only under the direct and specific order of a physician and an individual designated by the department of public health and human services to order the treatment for an individual placed in a residential facility.

History: **En. 38-1227 by Sec. 27, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1227; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 444, L. 2015.**

53-20-147. Right not to be subjected to experimental research. (1) Residents of a residential facility have a right not to be subjected to experimental research without the express and informed consent of the resident, if the resident is able to give consent, and of the resident's parents or guardian or the responsible person appointed by the court after opportunities for consultation with independent specialists and with legal counsel.

(2) The proposed research must have been reviewed and approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors before consent may be sought. Prior to approval, the board shall determine that the research complies with the principles of the statement on the use of human subjects for research of the American association on mental deficiency and with the principles for research involving human subjects required by the United States department of health and human services for projects supported by that agency.

History: En. 38-1228 by Sec. 28, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1228; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 10, L. 1993.

53-20-148. Right to habilitation. (1) Persons admitted to residential facilities have a right to habilitation, including medical treatment, education, and care suited to their needs, regardless of age, degree of intellectual disability, or disabling condition. Each resident has a right to a habilitation program that will maximize the resident's human abilities and enhance the resident's ability to cope with the environment. Every residential facility shall recognize that each resident, regardless of ability or status, is entitled to develop and realize the resident's fullest potential. The facility shall implement the principle of normalization so that each resident may live as normally as possible.

(2) Residents have a right to the least restrictive conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of habilitation. To this end, the facility shall make every attempt to move residents from:

(a) more to less structured living;

(b) larger to smaller facilities;

(c) larger to smaller living units;

(d) group to individual residences;

(e) segregated from the community to integrated into the community living; and

(f) dependent to independent living.

(3) Within 30 days of admission to a residential facility, each resident must have an evaluation by appropriate specialists for programming purposes.

(4) Each resident must have an individualized habilitation plan formulated by an individual treatment planning team. This plan must be implemented as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the resident's admission to the facility. An interim program of habilitation, based on the preadmission evaluation conducted pursuant to this part, must commence promptly upon the resident's admission. Each individualized habilitation plan must contain:

(a) a statement of the nature of the specific limitations and the needs of the resident;

(b) a description of intermediate and long-range habilitation goals, with a projected timetable for their attainment;

(c) a statement of and an explanation for the plan of habilitation for achieving these intermediate and long-range goals;

(d) a statement of the least restrictive setting for habilitation necessary to achieve the habilitation goals of the resident;

(e) a specification of the professionals and other staff members who are responsible for the particular resident's attaining these habilitation goals; and

(f) criteria for release to less restrictive settings for habilitation, based on the resident's needs, including criteria for discharge and a projected date for discharge.

(5) As part of the habilitation plan, each resident must have an individualized postinstitutionalization plan that includes an identification of services needed to make a satisfactory community placement possible. This plan must be developed by the individual treatment planning team that shall begin preparation of the plan upon the resident's admission to the facility and shall complete the plan as soon as practicable. The parents or guardian or next of kin of the resident, the responsible person appointed by the court, if any, and the resident, if able to give informed consent, must be consulted in the development of the plan and must be informed of the content of the plan.

(6) In the interests of continuity of care, one qualified intellectual disability professional shall whenever possible be responsible for supervising the implementation of the habilitation plan, integrating the various aspects of the habilitation program, and recording the resident's progress as measured by objective indicators. The qualified intellectual disability professional is also responsible for ensuring that the resident is released when appropriate to a less restrictive habilitation setting.

(7) The habilitation plan must be reviewed monthly by the qualified intellectual disability professional responsible for supervising the implementation of the plan and must be modified if necessary. In addition, 6 months after admission and at least annually thereafter, each resident must receive a comprehensive psychological, social, habilitative, and medical diagnosis and evaluation and the resident's habilitation plan must be reviewed and revised accordingly by the individual treatment planning team. A habilitation plan must be reviewed monthly.

(8) Each resident placed in the community must receive transitional habilitation assistance.

(9) A residential facility shall report in writing to the parents or guardian of the resident or the responsible person at least every 6 months on the resident's habilitation and medical condition. The report must also state any appropriate habilitation program that has not been afforded to the resident because of inadequate habilitation resources.

(10) Each resident, the parents or guardian of each resident, and the responsible person appointed by the court must promptly upon the resident's admission receive a written copy of and be orally informed of all the above standards for adequate habilitation, the rights accorded by 53-20-142, and other information concerning the care and habilitation of the resident that may be available to assist them in understanding the situation of the resident and the rights of the resident in the facility.

History: En. 38-1222 by Sec. 22, Ch. 468, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1222; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

53-20-149 through 53-20-160 reserved.

53-20-161. Maintenance of records. (1) Complete records for each resident must be maintained and must be readily available to persons who are directly involved with the particular resident and to the mental disabilities board of visitors. All information contained in a resident's records must be considered privileged and confidential. The parents or guardian, the responsible person appointed by the court, and any person properly authorized in writing by the resident, if the resident is capable of giving informed consent, or by the resident's parents or guardian or the responsible person must be permitted access to the resident's records. Information may not be released from the records of a resident or former resident of the residential facility unless the release of the information has been properly authorized in writing by:

(a) the court;

(b) the resident or former resident if the resident or former resident is over the age of majority and is capable of giving informed consent;

(c) the parents or guardian in charge of a resident under the age of 12;

(d) the parents or guardian in charge of a resident over the age of 12 but under the age of majority and the resident if the resident is capable of giving informed consent;

(e) the guardian of a resident over the age of majority who is incapable of giving informed consent; or

(f) a residential facility, through an individual designated by the department of public health and human services by rule, when the facility is the custodian of a resident:

(i) over the age of majority who is incapable of giving informed consent and for whom no legal guardian has been appointed;

(ii) under the age of majority for whom there is no parent or legal guardian; or

(iii) of the facility whenever release is required by federal or state law or department rules.

(2) Information may not be released by a residential facility under subsection (1)(f) less than 15 days after sending notice of the proposed release of information to the resident, the resident's parents or guardian, the attorney who most recently represented the resident, if any, the responsible person appointed by the court, if any, the resident's advocate, if any, and the court that ordered the admission. If any of the parties notified under this subsection objects to

the release of information, the party may petition the court for a hearing to determine whether the release of information should be allowed. Information may not be released pursuant to subsection (1)(f) unless it is released to further a legitimate need of the resident or to accomplish a legitimate purpose of the facility that is not inconsistent with the needs and rights of the resident. Information may not be released pursuant to subsection (1)(f) except in accordance with written policies consistent with the requirements of this part adopted by the facility. Persons receiving notice of a proposed release of information must also receive a copy of the written policy of the facility governing release of information.

(3) These records must include:

(a) identification data, including the resident's legal status;

(b) the resident's history, including but not limited to:

(i) family data, educational background, and employment record; and

(ii) prior medical history, both physical and mental, including prior institutionalization;

(c) the resident's grievances, if any;

(d) an inventory of the resident's life skills, including mode of communication;

(e) a record of each physical examination that describes the results of the examination;

(f) a copy of the individual habilitation plan and any modifications to the plan and an appropriate summary to guide and assist the resident care workers in implementing the resident's habilitation plan;

(g) the findings made in monthly reviews of the habilitation plan, including an analysis of the successes and failures of the habilitation program and whatever modifications are necessary;

(h) a copy of the postinstitutionalization plan that includes a statement of services needed in the community and any modifications to the postinstitutionalization plan and a summary of the steps that have been taken to implement that plan;

(i) a medication history and status;

(j) a summary of each significant contact by a qualified intellectual disability professional with a resident;

(k) a summary of the resident's response to the resident's habilitation plan, prepared by a qualified intellectual disability professional involved in the resident's habilitation and recorded at least monthly. Wherever possible, the response must be scientifically documented.

(l) a monthly summary of the extent and nature of the resident's work activities and the effect of the activity on the resident's progress in the habilitation plan;

(m) a signed order by a qualified intellectual disability professional or physician for any physical restraints;

(n) a description of any extraordinary incident or accident in the facility involving the resident, to be entered by a staff member noting personal knowledge of the incident or accident or other source of information, including any reports of investigations of the resident's mistreatment;

(o) a summary of family visits and contacts;

(p) a summary of attendance and leaves from the facility; and

(q) a record of any seizures; illnesses; injuries; treatments of seizures, illnesses, and injuries; and immunizations.

History: **En. 38-1223 by Sec. 23, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1223; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 485, L. 1979 amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 473, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 444, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

53-20-162. Training for resident care workers. All resident care workers who have not had prior clinical experience in a residential facility for habilitation of persons with developmental disabilities must be given suitable orientation training. Staff members on all levels must be given suitable, regularly scheduled inservice training. Each resident care worker shall receive supervision that emphasizes the protection of residents and their rights.

History: **En. 38-1224 by Sec. 24, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1224; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 381, L. 1991 amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.**

53-20-163. Abuse of residents prohibited. (1) Any form of mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a resident is prohibited.

(2) A residential facility shall publish in the facility and circulate to staff a written policy statement that defines the facility's requirements for reporting and investigating allegations of mistreatment, neglect, or abuse and injuries from an unknown source.

(3) Each allegation of mistreatment, neglect, or abuse and each injury from an unknown source must be reported immediately to:

(a) the department of public health and human services;

(b) a representative of the facility as designated by the department of public health and human services by rule; and

(c) if the alleged mistreatment, neglect, or abuse or the injury occurred at the Montana developmental center, the department of justice.

(4) The residential facility shall maintain a written record that:

(a) each allegation and each injury from an unknown source has been reported as required by this section;

(b) each allegation and each injury from an unknown source has been thoroughly investigated and findings stated;

(c) the investigation into the allegation or injury from an unknown source was initiated on the next business day following the report of the incident; and

(d) the results were reported to the director of the department of public health and human services.

(5) The director of the department of public health and human services shall report the details of each reported allegation, including providing the written record created pursuant to this section, to the mental disabilities board of visitors and the state protection and advocacy program for individuals with developmental disabilities, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 15043(a)(2), within 5 business days of the incident. The director and the residential facility may not redact any information that is provided pursuant to this subsection. The mental disabilities board of visitors and the state protection and advocacy program shall maintain the confidentiality of any report received under this section to the same extent that the reports are confidential under state and federal laws applicable to the residential facility.

(6) Upon receiving a report of an allegation of mistreatment, neglect, or abuse or of an injury from an unknown source at the Montana developmental center, the department of justice shall conduct a thorough investigation of each allegation or each injury from an unknown source and provide a written report of its investigation and findings to the superintendent of the residential facility within 5 business days of the incident.

(7) The Montana developmental center shall provide the department of justice with access to records and other information necessary to conduct investigations under this section. The department of justice shall maintain the confidentiality of any information received in the course of conducting investigations under this section to the same extent that the information is confidential under state and federal laws applicable to the residential facility.

(8) If a state licensing authority or federal medicaid certification authority issues a statement of deficiency indicating that the residential facility has failed to meet licensing or certification standards due to the thoroughness or timeliness of an investigation conducted under this section, the department of justice shall participate in preparing a plan of correction to restore the residential facility's compliance with licensing or certification standards.

(9) If in the course of conducting an investigation under this section the department of justice develops reasonable cause to believe that a criminal offense has occurred, the department of justice shall refer the matter to the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

(10) The department of justice may adopt rules to implement this section.

History: En. 38-1225 by Sec. 25, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1225; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 474, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

53-20-164. Resident labor. The following rules govern resident labor:

(1) A resident may not be required to perform labor that involves the operation and maintenance of the facility or for which the facility is under contract with an outside organization. Privileges or release from the facility may not be conditioned upon the performance of labor

covered by this provision. Residents may voluntarily engage in the labor described in this subsection if the labor is compensated in accordance with the minimum wage laws of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 206, as amended.

(2) A resident may not be involved in the feeding, clothing, bathing, training, or supervision of other residents unless the resident:

(a) has volunteered;

(b) has been specifically trained in the necessary skills;

(c) has the humane judgment required for the activities;

(d) is adequately supervised; and

(e) is reimbursed in accordance with the minimum wage laws of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 206, as amended.

(3) Residents may be required to perform vocational training tasks that do not involve the operation and maintenance of the facility, subject to a presumption that an assignment of longer than 3 months to any task is not a training task, provided that the specific task or any change in task assignment is:

(a) an integrated part of the resident's habilitation plan and approved as a habilitation activity by the qualified intellectual disability professional and the individual treatment planning team responsible for supervising the resident's habilitation; and

(b) supervised by a staff member to oversee the habilitation aspects of the activity.

(4) Residents may voluntarily engage in habilitative labor at nonprogram hours for which the facility would otherwise have to pay an employee if the specific labor or any change in labor is:

(a) an integrated part of the resident's habilitation plan and approved as a habilitation activity by the qualified intellectual disability professional and the individual treatment planning team responsible for supervising the resident's habilitation;

(b) supervised by a staff member to oversee the habilitation aspects of the activity; and

(c) compensated in accordance with the minimum wage laws of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 206, as amended.

(5) If a resident performs habilitative labor that involves the operation and maintenance of a facility but due to physical or mental disability is unable to perform the labor as efficiently as a person not so physically or mentally disabled, then the resident may be compensated at a rate that bears the same approximate relation to the statutory minimum wage as the resident's ability to perform that particular job bears to the ability of a person not so afflicted.

(6) Residents may be required to perform tasks of a personal housekeeping nature, such as the making of one's own bed.

(7) Deductions or payments for care and other charges may not deprive a resident of a reasonable amount of the compensation received pursuant to this section for personal and incidental purchases and expenses.

(8) Staffing must be sufficient so that the facility is not dependent upon the use of residents or volunteers for the care, maintenance, or habilitation of other residents or for income-producing services. The facility shall formulate a written policy to protect the residents from exploitation when they are engaged in productive work.

History: En. 38-1229 by Sec. 29, Ch. 468, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1229; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 485, L. 1979 amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 381, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1909, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 68, L. 2013.

53-20-165. Clothing for residents discharged or conditionally released. A resident may not be discharged or conditionally released from a residential facility for persons with developmental disabilities without suitable reasonable clothing that will allow the resident to make a normal appearance in the community.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 485, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Clothing purchases exempt from general purchasing requirements, 18-4-133.

53-20-166 through 53-20-170 reserved.

53-20-171. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 590, L. 2003.

53-20-172. Dual eligibility for services. An individual with developmental disabilities who is eligible for services pursuant to this chapter may also apply for and, if qualified, receive medicaid services pursuant to law governing the Montana medicaid program.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 374, L. 2007.

53-20-173. Autism facilities grant — purpose — eligibility — rulemaking. (1) There is an autism facilities grant program administered by the department of public health and human services for the purpose of providing grants for the construction of autism facilities designed and equipped to provide services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

(2) To be eligible for a grant from the department, a nonprofit or government entity shall:

(a) match each $1 of the grant with $1 raised from public or private sources; and

(b) provide the department with plans for the construction and development of autism facilities in the state.

(3) The department shall adopt rules for administration of the grant program.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "autism facility" is a facility in the state that provides services to children or adults, or both, with autism spectrum disorder, including but not limited to housing, therapy, and other support services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 748, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 748, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

53-20-174. Autism facilities special revenue account. (1) There is an autism facilities account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 to the credit of the department of public health and human services.

(2) The purpose of the account is to provide funding for autism facilities grants awarded in accordance with 53-20-173.

(3) The account consists of

(a) money appropriated to or transferred into the account by the legislature;

(b) any funds available through and identified by the department for the autism facilities grant program; and

(c) gifts, grants, or donations made for the purposes of 53-20-173.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 748, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 748, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Part 2
Community-Based Services

Part Cross-References

Regular classes preferred — obligation to establish special education program, 20-7-411.

53-20-201. Short title. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Act of 1974".

History: En. 80-2611 by Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1974; redes. 71-2401 by Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2401.

53-20-202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Comprehensive developmental disability system" means a system of services, including but not limited to the following basic services, with the intention of providing alternatives to institutionalization:

(a) evaluation services;
(b) diagnostic services;
(c) treatment services;
(d) day-care services;
(e) training services;
(f) education services;
(g) employment services;
(h) recreation services;
(i) personal-care services;
(j) domiciliary-care services;
(k) special living arrangements services;

(l) counseling services;
(m) information and referral services;
(n) follow-along services;
(o) protective and other social and sociolegal services, including case management services as defined in 42 CFR 440.169; and
(p) transportation services.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services.

(3) "Developmental disabilities" means disabilities attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or any other neurologically disabling condition closely related to intellectual disability and requiring treatment similar to that required by intellectually disabled individuals if the disability originated before the person attained age 18, has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and results in the person having a substantial disability.

(4) "Developmental disabilities facility" means any service or group of services offering care to persons with developmental disabilities on an inpatient, outpatient, residential, clinical, or other programmatic basis.

(5) "Legal resident" means a person who maintains Montana as the person's principal establishment, home of record, or permanent home and where, whenever absent due to military obligation, the person intends to return.

(6) "Military dependent" means a child of a military service member.

(7) "Military service" means service in the armed forces or armed forces reserves or membership in the Montana national guard.

(8) "Military service member" means a person who is currently in military service or who has separated from military service in the previous 18 months either through retirement or military separation.

History: En. 80-2612 by Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2612; amd. and redes. 71-2402 by Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2402; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 475, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 78, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 451, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 2019.

53-20-203. Responsibilities of department. The department shall:

(1) take cognizance of matters affecting the citizens of the state who are persons with developmental disabilities;

(2) initiate a preventive developmental disabilities program that must include but not be limited to the implementation of developmental disabilities care, treatment, prevention, and research as can best be accomplished by community-centered services. Every means must be used to initiate and operate the service program in cooperation with local agencies under the provisions of 53-20-205.

(3) collect and disseminate information relating to developmental disabilities;

(4) prepare an annual comprehensive plan for the initiation and maintenance of developmental disabilities services in the state. The services must include but not be limited to community comprehensive developmental disabilities services as listed in 53-20-202(1).

(5) provide by rule for the evaluation of:
(a) persons who apply for services;
(b) persons admitted into a program at a developmental disability facility; and
(c) persons residing at or released from the Montana developmental center into a community home, in accordance with the requirements established in 53-20-225;

(6) carry out the review of administrative rules, policies, and procedures provided for in 53-20-215 and take the steps necessary to eliminate or change a rule, policy, or procedure found by the review to be unnecessary, duplicative, or in need of revision, including applying for any amendments to medicaid waivers;

(7) receive from agencies of the government of the United States and other agencies, persons or groups of persons, associations, firms, or corporations grants of money, receipts from fees, gifts, supplies, materials, and contributions to initiate and maintain developmental disabilities services within the state;

(8) require that habilitation plans be developed, implemented, and continuously maintained for all persons with developmental disabilities who are served through a community-based program funded by the state; and

(9) use funds available for cases in which special medical or material assistance is necessary to rehabilitate children with developmental disabilities or children with physical disabilities if the assistance is not otherwise provided for by law.

History: En. 80-2613 by Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2613; amd. and redes. 71-2403 by Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2403; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 78, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 265, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 2019.

53-20-204. Rules. (1) The department may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration of this part, including but not limited to:

(a) the training and other standards necessary to provide crisis support services as allowed under 53-20-216; and

(b) the reimbursement rates for crisis support services provided pursuant to 53-20-216.

(2) The department shall adopt rules in cooperation with the board of nursing under which a properly trained staff member of a facility providing services to persons with developmental disabilities under this part may assist and supervise a client of the facility in taking medication if the medication is usually self-administered and if a physician has prescribed the assistance.

History: En. 80-2614 by Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2614; amd. and redes. 71-2404 by Sec. 3, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2404(1), (4); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 577, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication, 53-20-145.

53-20-205. Community services. (1) The department may establish and administer community comprehensive services, programs, clinics, or other facilities throughout the state for the purpose of aiding in the prevention, diagnosis, amelioration, or treatment of developmental disabilities. Programs, clinics, or other services may be provided directly by state agencies or indirectly through contract or cooperative arrangements with other agencies of government, regional or local, private or public agencies, private professional persons, or accredited health or long-term care facilities.

(2) (a) The department may contract for programs for developmental disabilities services. Contracts entered into by the department must contain specific conditions for performance by the contractor. The department shall set minimum standards for programs and establish appropriate qualifications for persons employed in the programs.

(b) A contract for case management services targeted for people with developmental disabilities must include funding to allow for an average caseload of no more than 35 clients per case manager.

(3) All developmental disabilities facilities and services must comply with existing federal guidelines and with requirements that will enable the services and facilities to qualify for available aid funds. However, this section does not require facilities serving persons with developmental disabilities to meet the same or equal standards as licensed medical facilities unless the developmental disabilities facility is providing professional or skilled medical care.

(4) Comprehensive services, programs, clinics, or other facilities established or provided by the department under this part must conform as nearly as possible to the plans of the council created under 2-15-1869.

(5) The department may promote scientific and medical research investigations relative to the incidence, cause, prevention, and care of persons with developmental disabilities.

History: (1), (4)En. 80-2615 by Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2615; amd. and redes. 71-2405 by Sec. 4, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2405, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 80-2614 by Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2614; amd. and redes. 71-2404 by Sec. 3, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 559, L. 1977; Sec. 71-2404, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2404(2), (3), 71-2405; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 38, L. 1979; (5)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 171, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 78, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

53-20-206. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 78, L. 2005.

History: En. 71-2406 by Sec. 5, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2406(4) thru (9); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 478, L. 2003.

53-20-207. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

History: En. 71-2407 by Sec. 6, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2407; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-208. Contributions of counties and municipalities. (1) The boards of county commissioners of the several counties and the governing bodies of municipalities of this state may contribute to any developmental disabilities facility approved by the department, without regard to whether the facility is within or outside of their respective jurisdictions. Subject to 15-10-420, the boards of county commissioners of the counties may levy a tax on the taxable value of all taxable property within the county. The tax is in addition to all other county tax levies. All proceeds of the tax, if levied, must be used for the sole purpose of support of developmental disabilities services.

(2) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, boards of county commissioners and governing bodies of municipalities may appropriate out of the general fund of their respective counties or municipalities.

History: En. 80-2619 by Sec. 9, Ch. 325, L. 1974; Sec. 80-2619, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 71-2408 by Sec. 7, Ch. 239, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2408; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

Cross-References

County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.
Taxation — public and governmental purposes, 7-6-2527.

53-20-209. Eligibility for services. (1) A person suspected of having a developmental disability is eligible for an evaluation to determine whether the person is a person with developmental disabilities.

(2) If the department determines through a screening process that a person with developmental disabilities is in need of available services and those services can be provided to the person, the department may provide services available under Title 53, chapter 20, part 3, and this part.

History: En. 80-2621 by Sec. 11, Ch. 325, L. 1974; Sec. 80-2621, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 71-2409 by Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2409; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1910, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-20-210. Application to reservation Indians. For purposes of this part, Indian people living within federal Indian reservations shall be entitled to all services provided for under this part.

History: En. 80-2622 by Sec. 12, Ch. 325, L. 1974; Sec. 80-2622, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 71-2410 by Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2410.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction on Indian lands, Title 2, ch. 1, part 3.

53-20-211. No effect on existing facilities. Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent the continuation of existing developmental disabilities facilities or services in the state.

History: En. 80-2623 by Sec. 13, Ch. 325, L. 1974; Sec. 80-2623, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 71-2411 by Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2411.

53-20-212. Discrimination forbidden. The services provided under this part shall be made available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or ability to pay and shall comply with the provisions of Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

History: En. 80-2624 by Sec. 14, Ch. 325, L. 1974; Sec. 80-2624, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 71-2412 by Sec. 10, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 38, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2412.

Cross-References

Individual dignity, Art. II, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Illegal discrimination, Title 49, ch. 2.

53-20-213. Departments to cooperate. The department of public health and human services and the office of superintendent of public instruction shall cooperate on all aspects of each agency's respective programs for persons with developmental disabilities.

History: En. 71-2414 by Sec. 8, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2414(1); amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 476, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-20-214. Certain transfers of funds authorized. Funds appropriated to the Montana state hospital or Montana developmental center may be used for comprehensive developmental disability systems if:

(1) residents of any of those institutions are transferred to a comprehensive developmental disability system resulting in less expenditures at that institution than allowed by legislative appropriation; and

(2) a transfer of appropriations between programs is:

(a) made as provided in 17-7-139; and

(b) approved by the governor.

History: En. 71-2414 by Sec. 8, Ch. 239, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 559, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2414(2); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 151, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 477, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 444, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Budget amendments, 5-12-401.

Limit on expenditures, 17-8-103.

53-20-215. Regulatory streamlining. (1) The department's division responsible for administering the comprehensive developmental disability system shall work with providers of community developmental disability services to identify areas in which the department's administrative rules, policies, or procedures related to the system:

(a) duplicate federal regulations;

(b) duplicate or contradict rules or policies established for the system by other department divisions;

(c) are applied inconsistently across the designated developmental disabilities regions or by department staff and contractors; or

(d) create the potential for waste of resources.

(2) Based on the areas identified pursuant to subsection (1), the department shall review the related administrative rules, policies, and procedures to:

(a) determine the ongoing reasonable necessity pursuant to 2-4-305;

(b) determine the costs and benefits to providers of community services and to the state of continuing each rule, policy, or procedure;

(c) eliminate rules, policies, or procedures that are determined to be not cost-effective;

(d) eliminate duplication in oversight and monitoring requirements; and

(e) create consistency in the application of a rule, policy, or procedure, if necessary.

(3) The department shall develop a written plan that:

(a) outlines the process and deadline for completing the initial review of the rules, policies, and procedures; and

(b) establishes a process and timeline for an ongoing review, in conjunction with providers, that will continue to identify and correct areas of duplication, inconsistency, or waste.

(4) The department shall:

(a) include other interested parties in the review required under this section; and

(b) complete the activities required under this section using existing resources.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 2019.

53-20-216. Crisis response services — department and provider responsibilities. (1) (a) The department shall establish crisis response services to help individuals with developmental disabilities minimize or avoid instances of crisis. The services must assist providers and families in preventing, deescalating, and intervening in instances in which individuals with developmental disabilities are likely to go into crisis.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "crisis" means an instance in which an individual is upset, afraid, confused, or otherwise experiencing emotional or physical disequilibrium, which negatively affects the individual's actions and places the individual at risk of incarceration, hospitalization, civil commitment, or loss of the individual's placement in community services.

(2) The crisis response services must consist of three different levels of prevention, intervention, and crisis support services:

(a) a preventive level of response that involves training providers and families in identifying and preventing crisis and in responding to a crisis in its initial stages before the crisis escalates to require a higher level of intervention;

(b) an intermediate level of response that involves providing direct professional staff support to an individual in the individual's current community placement when the individual is in or is approaching crisis; and

(c) an advanced level of response that involves qualified providers providing support services to an individual approaching or in crisis outside of the individual's current community placement. A provider offering crisis support services at this level must receive an enhanced reimbursement rate that reflects the higher level of support being provided to the individual in crisis.

(3) (a) To access crisis response services, providers shall:

(i) contact the department for assistance when an individual with developmental disabilities is in or is approaching crisis; and

(ii) implement the suggestions made for crisis response.

(b) If the individual needs the highest level of response, the department shall find an appropriate placement for the individual if the provider is unable to offer the level of response needed to mitigate the crisis and maintain the individual in the current placement.

(4) (a) A person offering training in crisis response or providing direct crisis response services must:

(i) be licensed in the practice of applied behavior analysis pursuant to Title 37, chapter 17; and

(ii) meet other requirements established by the department by rule.

(b) If a team of individuals is offering training under this section, at least one member of the team must meet the licensure requirements of Title 37, chapter 17.

(5) The department may not provide the training or direct services described under this section and shall contract with one or more private entities for the services.

(6) In developing and carrying out crisis response services, the department shall consult with and include other entities that respond to crisis situations involving individuals with developmental disabilities, including but not limited to law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and mental health providers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 577, L. 2021.

53-20-217 through 53-20-219 reserved.

53-20-220. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 304, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 2005.

53-20-221. Liability training program and materials for respite care. (1) The department, in conjunction with the department of labor and industry, shall develop a training program and educational materials on labor law and liability issues related to the employment of a person by an individual for respite care services under the exemptions provided in 39-3-406, 39-51-204, and 39-71-401. The educational materials must provide information on the labor law requirements applicable to an individual hiring a person for respite care services.

(2) The department shall make the training materials available to providers of community-based services for people with developmental disabilities that serve as the organized health care delivery system for respite care funds available from the department for use by individuals who hire and pay a person to provide respite care to a family member or a person for whom they are the legal guardian.

(3) To qualify for the respite care funds available from the department, an individual:

(a) shall receive training offered by a provider; and

(b) shall sign a statement acknowledging that the individual has completed the training and has read the related educational materials.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 123, L. 2011.

53-20-222. Respite care and employment responsibilities — liabilities. (1) Contingent upon approval of the program by the federal government for purposes of receiving federal medicaid funds, the department may make payment to an approved, certified, and qualified medicaid provider who passes through the payment on behalf of a family to a person providing respite care for individuals who, because of age or infirmity, are unable to care for themselves as provided under 29 U.S.C. 213. A qualified medicaid provider who passes through payment may not be considered an employer by the department for the purposes of workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, or wage and hour requirements.

(2) The department, through administrative rule, waiver of a state or federal program providing payment for respite care, or a pilot program, may not require a qualified medicaid provider to assume employer responsibilities or liabilities if the family chooses to negotiate the respite care agreement and the qualified provider does not:

(a) control the person who provides respite care; or

(b) direct the respite care provided by the person.

(3) (a) The department may provide an option to families to choose self-directed care.

(b) The department shall continue to provide families the choice of negotiating respite care by using a local qualified medicaid provider to provide pass-through payment and benefiting from the exemptions provided under 39-3-406, 39-51-204, and 39-71-401.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 281, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 123, L. 2011.**

53-20-223. Military dependents — eligibility and placement determinations. (1) If a military dependent is eligible for home and community-based developmental disability services while physically present in the state, the department shall reinstate the dependent's eligibility and placement status when the dependent returns to the state if the military service member provides proof acceptable to the department that:

(a) the military service member was on military assignment outside the state, was a legal resident of the state before the military assignment, and maintained residency in the state while on the military assignment;

(b) the military service member and military dependent are physically present in the state and intend to reside permanently in the state while the dependent is receiving services;

(c) the military service member returned to the state within 18 months of separating from military service; and

(d) the military dependent is not eligible for coverage of home and community-based services under another health insurance plan.

(2) (a) Upon the military dependent's return to the state, the department shall reinstate the dependent's eligibility status without a further redetermination of eligibility unless the state's eligibility requirements have changed while the dependent was out of the state.

(b) If the eligibility requirements have changed, the military dependent shall retain eligibility for services until eligibility under the new requirements has been determined.

(3) (a) If the military dependent was on a waiting list for services at the time the dependent left the state due to the military service member's military assignment, the department shall determine the military dependent's place on the waiting list as if the dependent had remained in the state during the time of the military assignment.

(b) If the department finds that the military dependent would be immediately eligible for services upon return to the state, the department shall place the dependent in services as soon as an opening occurs. The department may not remove a person from services in order to place a military dependent in services.

(4) Upon the military dependent's return to the state and when a request for services is made, the department shall notify the dependent of the availability of services and any changes in eligibility requirements. The department shall provide due process through the appeals processes established by the department.

(5) To continue eligibility under this section, the military dependent must inform the department of the dependent's current address and provide updates as requested by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 2015.**

53-20-224. Legislative findings — purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the Montana developmental center has served as a placement of last resort for seriously developmentally disabled individuals, many of whom have co-occurring mental health conditions.

(2) The legislature further finds that as the department has been carrying out the process of closing the Montana developmental center pursuant to Chapter 444, Laws of 2015, family members of Montana developmental center residents, community service providers, and

community members have expressed concern that community facilities may not be equipped to provide appropriate care and treatment for some of the residents.

(3) The legislature further finds that family members have expressed concern that their developmentally disabled relatives may not maintain the progress they have made in treatment at the Montana developmental center as they move to new and unfamiliar settings.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature that the department monitor the skills, abilities, and behaviors of Montana developmental center residents while they are in the care and custody of the state and as they transition to the community in order to ensure that the individuals remain safe, maintain or improve their skills and abilities, and find a home that provides the most appropriate services in the least restrictive setting possible.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2017.

53-20-225. Department monitoring of Montana developmental center residents — report to legislature. (1) The department shall monitor:

(a) individuals released from the Montana developmental center and placed in a community home as defined in 53-20-302 for 2 years after placement in a community home; and

(b) for the duration of their residency, individuals who are admitted to and residing at the Montana developmental center.

(2) The department shall evaluate on a quarterly basis behaviors in the following areas to determine whether the skills, abilities, and behaviors of an individual subject to this section have improved, diminished, or remained unchanged:

(a) verbal or nonverbal communication, as appropriate for the individual;
(b) activities of daily living;
(c) emotional well-being;
(d) physical aggression; and
(e) sexually inappropriate behaviors.

(3) The department shall report on the results of the monitoring:

(a) at least quarterly to family members and guardians of the individuals if the family members and guardians are authorized to receive health care information; and

(b) annually to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. The report to the interim committee may provide information only in an aggregate form and may not contain any individually identifying information.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Part 3
Community Homes

53-20-301. Purpose. The legislature, in recognition of the wide and varied needs of persons with developmental disabilities and of the desirability of meeting these needs on a community level to the fullest extent possible and in order to reduce the need for care in existing state institutions, establishes by this part a community home program for persons with developmental disabilities to provide facilities and services for the training and treatment of persons with developmental disabilities in family-oriented residences and establishes a program to provide such homes through local nonprofit corporations.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995.

53-20-302. Definition of community home — limitation on number of residents. A community home for persons with developmental disabilities is a family-oriented residence or home designed to provide facilities for two to eight persons with developmental disabilities, established as an alternative to existing state institutions. The number of persons with developmental disabilities may not exceed eight in a community home, except that the department of public health and human services may grant written approval for more than eight but not more than twelve persons.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2002; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 478, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-20-303. Parties authorized to establish and operate community homes. (1) Nonprofit corporations or associations may be formed or organized in any community for the purposes of establishing a community home or homes for persons with developmental disabilities under this part and to receive services, facilities, and funds as the department of public health and human services and other governmental units may be authorized by law to provide.

(2) The department may also establish a community home or homes for persons with developmental disabilities under this part and receive services, facilities, and funds as the department and other governmental units may be authorized by law to provide.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 373, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 149, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2003; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 479, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-20-304. Department contracts with nonprofit corporations — governmental units providing for community homes. (1) The department of public health and human services may contract with nonprofit corporations or associations to provide facilities and services for persons with developmental disabilities in community homes for persons with developmental disabilities and is authorized to expend money appropriated or available for that purpose.

(2) Governmental units, including but not limited to counties, municipalities, school districts, or state institutions of higher learning, are authorized to provide, at their own expense, funds, materials, facilities, and services for community homes for persons with developmental disabilities.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 373, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 149, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2004; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 480, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.

53-20-305. Local control of community homes — departmental licensing, administration, operation, health and safety standards. (1) Community homes for persons with developmental disabilities may be under local control, and the nonprofit corporations or associations operating community homes are authorized to establish homes and programs they believe in the best interest of their homes.

(2) (a) A community home for persons with developmental disabilities must be licensed annually by the department of public health and human services.

(b) One temporary license may be issued for no longer than 60 days if there are unavoidable delays in the certification process.

(3) The department of public health and human services for the purpose of licensing shall adopt standards and rules concerning the administration, operation, health, and safety of community homes for persons with developmental disabilities.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 373, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 149, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 255, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 481, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

53-20-306. Federal aid. The department of public health and human services may apply for and receive federal-aid money or other assistance that is available for programs in the nature of the program created by this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 373, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 149, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2006; amd. Sec. 482, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-20-307. Health and safety standards for licensing. (1) (a) After initial certification by the state fire prevention and investigation section of the department of justice, community homes must be certified annually for fire and life safety by the department of justice.

(b) The department of justice shall notify the department of public health and human services when a community home has been certified.

(2) (a) Local health officers shall certify community homes for compliance with health and safety standards. If for any reason the local authority cannot complete the certification in a timely manner, the department of public health and human services is authorized to make the determination on certification.

(b) A reasonable fee may be charged to authorized parties, as defined in 53-20-303, for the health and safety certification.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 373, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 609, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 483, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of local boards of health, 50-2-116.

State fire prevention and investigation program, Title 50, ch. 3, part 1.

Part 4
Protective Services
(Renumbered and Repealed)

53-20-401. Renumbered 52-4-101. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-402. Renumbered 52-4-102. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-403. Renumbered 52-4-103. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-404. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1904; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 343, L. 1981.

53-20-405. Renumbered 52-4-104. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-406. Renumbered 52-4-105. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-407. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1907.

53-20-408. Renumbered 52-4-106. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-409. Renumbered 52-4-107. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-410. Renumbered 52-4-108. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-411. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1911.

53-20-412. Repealed. Sec. 112, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 508, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 71-1912.

53-20-413. Renumbered 52-4-110. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-20-414. Renumbered 53-20-107. Sec. 114, Ch. 609, L. 1987.

Part 5
State-Owned Facilities

53-20-501. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2604; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 151, L. 1985.

53-20-502. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 255, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2310; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 151, L. 1985.

53-20-503. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 132, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 1979.

53-20-504. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services. The department of public health and human services:

(1) may operate or contract with a nonprofit corporation that demonstrates expertise in and the capability of providing programs for the patient population to be served by the facility and for the operation and management of nursing homes;

(2) shall ensure that any state-owned nursing homes are in compliance with federal and state regulations;

(3) shall adopt rules for staffing requirements and the admission of patients;

(4) may accept grants, gifts, bequests, and contributions in money or property or any other form from individuals, corporations, associations, or federal, state, and local government agencies for the purposes of establishing and operating nursing homes.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 484, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-20-505. Disposition of facility. Section 53-20-504 does not prohibit the disposition of the facility as provided in 77-2-302 if an appropriate use for the facility cannot be found by the department of public health and human services.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 537, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 132, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 485, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Part 6
Intensive Behavior Center

53-20-601. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Center" means the intensive behavior center provided for in 53-20-602.

(2) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(3) "Developmental disability" has the meaning provided in 53-20-102.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2017.**

53-20-602. Intensive behavior center limitations. (1) There is a state-operated 12-bed intensive behavior center for individuals with a developmental disability who are in need of intensive treatment because of continuous or repeated behaviors that pose an imminent risk of serious harm to self or others.

(2) The center shall provide a program of active treatment in a secure residential environment. The treatment must:

(a) address the behavioral issues of each resident; and

(b) foster for each resident the transition to and residency in less restrictive service settings.

(3) The center may serve only individuals for whom the department has asked a county attorney to file a petition alleging the individual is in need of the services and secure setting of the center and requesting that the individual be committed to the center for services. The initial period of commitment to the center may not exceed 90 days. If recommitment is sought pursuant to 53-20-128, each subsequent recommitment period may not exceed 90 days.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 2017.**

53-20-603. Licensing. The intensive behavior center operated pursuant to this part must be licensed as an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled in accordance with 50-5-238.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 258, L. 2017.**

53-20-604. Rulemaking authority. The department may adopt rules to carry out this part, including but not limited to rules for eligibility requirements for admission to the facility.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 258, L. 2017.**

CHAPTER 21
MENTALLY ILL

Part 1 — Treatment of the Seriously Mentally Ill

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53-21-407. Limitation on expenditures.
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Chapter Cross-References

Treatment of mentally ill — Montana State Hospital, 53-21-601.

Part 1
Treatment of the Seriously Mentally Ill

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Liability of person of unsound mind for own torts, 27-1-711.
When person entitled to bring action is under a disability, 27-2-401.
Grounds for invalidity of marriage, 40-1-402.
Public Administrator as conservator when no other appropriate person, 72-5-415.

53-21-101. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:

(1) secure for each person who may be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment the care and treatment suited to the needs of the person and to ensure that the care and treatment are skillfully and humanely administered with full respect for the person's dignity and personal integrity;

(2) accomplish this goal whenever possible in a community-based setting;

(3) accomplish this goal in an institutionalized setting only when less restrictive alternatives are unavailable or inadequate and only when a person is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment; and

(4) ensure that due process of law is accorded any person coming under the provisions of his part.

History: En. 38-1301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1301; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

53-21-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abuse" means any willful, negligent, or reckless mental, physical, sexual, or verbal mistreatment or maltreatment or misappropriation of personal property of any person receiving treatment in a mental health facility that insults the psychosocial, physical, or sexual integrity of any person receiving treatment in a mental health facility.

(2) "Behavioral health inpatient facility" means a facility or a distinct part of a facility of 16 beds or less licensed by the department that is capable of providing secure, inpatient psychiatric services, including services to persons with mental illness and co-occurring chemical dependency.

(3) "Board" or "mental disabilities board of visitors" means the mental disabilities board of visitors created by 2-15-211.

(4) "Commitment" means an order by a court requiring an individual to receive treatment for a mental disorder.

(5) "Court" means any district court of the state of Montana.

(6) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(7) "Emergency situation" means:

(a) a situation in which any person is in imminent danger of death or bodily harm from he activity of a person who appears to be suffering from a mental disorder and appears to require commitment; or

(b) a situation in which any person who appears to be suffering from a mental disorder and appears to require commitment is substantially unable to provide for the person's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety.

(8) "Friend of respondent" means any person willing and able to assist a person suffering rom a mental disorder and requiring commitment or a person alleged to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment in dealing with legal proceedings, including onsultation with legal counsel and others.

(9) (a) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has ubstantial adverse effects on an individual's cognitive or volitional functions.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) addiction to drugs or alcohol;

(ii) drug or alcohol intoxication;

(iii) intellectual disability; or

(iv) epilepsy.

(c) A mental disorder may co-occur with addiction or chemical dependency.

(10) "Mental health facility" or "facility" means the state hospital, the Montana mental health nursing care center, or a hospital, a behavioral health inpatient facility, a mental health enter, a residential treatment facility, or a residential treatment center licensed or certified by the department that provides treatment to children or adults with a mental disorder. A orrectional institution or facility or jail is not a mental health facility within the meaning of his part.

(11) "Mental health professional" means:

(a) a certified professional person;

(b) a physician licensed under Title 37, chapter 3;

(c) a clinical professional counselor licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;

(d) a psychologist licensed under Title 37, chapter 17;

(e) a clinical social worker licensed under Title 37, chapter 39;

(f) an advanced practice registered nurse, as provided for in 37-8-202, with a clinical pecialty in psychiatric mental health nursing;

(g) a physician assistant licensed under Title 37, chapter 20, with a clinical specialty in sychiatric mental health; or

(h) a marriage and family therapist licensed under Title 37, chapter 39.

(12) (a) "Neglect" means failure to provide for the biological and psychosocial needs of any person receiving treatment in a mental health facility, failure to report abuse, or failure to exercise supervisory responsibilities to protect patients from abuse and neglect.

(b) The term includes but is not limited to:

(i) deprivation of food, shelter, appropriate clothing, nursing care, or other services;

(ii) failure to follow a prescribed plan of care and treatment; or

(iii) failure to respond to a person in an emergency situation by indifference, carelessness, or intention.

(13) "Next of kin" includes but is not limited to the spouse, parents, adult children, and adult brothers and sisters of a person.

(14) "Patient" means a person committed by the court for treatment for any period of time or who is voluntarily admitted for treatment for any period of time.

(15) "Peace officer" means any sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, police officer, or other peace officer.

(16) "Professional person" means:

(a) a medical doctor;

(b) an advanced practice registered nurse, as provided for in 37-8-202, with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing;

(c) a licensed psychologist;

(d) a physician assistant licensed under Title 37, chapter 20, with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health; or

(e) a person who has been certified, as provided for in 53-21-106, by the department.

(17) "Reasonable medical certainty" means reasonable certainty as judged by the standards of a professional person.

(18) "Respondent" means a person alleged in a petition filed pursuant to this part to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment.

(19) "State hospital" means the Montana state hospital.

History: Ap. p. 38-1302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1302, R.C.M. 1947; (15)En. 38-106.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 1974; Sec. 38-106.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 38-106.1, 38-1302; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 578, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 486, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 68, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 713, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 28, Ch. 713, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-21-103. Court records to be kept separate. Records and papers in proceedings under this part shall be maintained separately by the clerks of the several courts. Five days prior to the release of a respondent or patient committed to a mental health facility, the facility shall notify the clerk of the court, and the clerk shall immediately seal the record in the case and omit the name of the respondent or patient from the index or indexes of cases in the court unless the court orders the record opened for good cause shown.

History: En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1309(5); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 547, L. 1979.

53-21-104. Powers and duties of mental disabilities board of visitors. (1) The board is an independent board of inquiry and review that is responsible to ensure that the treatment of all persons either voluntarily or involuntarily admitted to a mental facility in Montana is humane, is consistent with established clinical and other professional standards, and meets the requirements set forth in this part.

(2) The board shall review all plans for experimental research involving persons admitted to a mental health facility to ensure that each research project is humane and not unduly hazardous and that it complies with the principles of the statement on the use of human subjects for research of the American association on mental deficiency and with the principles for research involving human subjects required by the United States department of health and human services. An activity considered to be an experimental research project and that involves a person or persons admitted to a mental health facility affected by this part may not be commenced unless it is approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors.

(3) (a) The board shall inspect every mental health facility that provides treatment or evaluation to any person pursuant to this part.

(b) The board shall annually establish a schedule for the inspection of mental health facilities that enables the board to meet its obligation under subsection (1).

(c) The board's authority to inspect mental health facilities may not be waived or precluded by other treatment review, licensing, or accreditation requirements or protocols. The board may exercise the prerogative to inspect any mental health facility at any time independent of its facility inspection schedule.

(d) The board shall produce a written report of each inspection of a mental health facility hat must include specific recommendations for improvements that the board concludes are necessary in order for the inspected facility to meet the requirements in this part.

(e) The board shall provide a draft of each written report within 30 calendar days of the completion of each mental health facility inspection to the professional person in charge of the inspected facility for review prior to publication.

(f) The professional person in charge of the inspected facility shall provide a written response to the board's written report within 30 calendar days of receipt of the report. The response must include one of the following for each recommendation:

(i) a specific plan for implementation of the recommended action; or

(ii) a specific rationale that explains why the recommendation cannot be implemented.

(g) The board shall include the inspected facility's written response in the board's final published written report.

(h) The board shall include in subsequent inspections an assessment of each facility's implementation of the recommendations.

(i) The board shall report in writing to the director of the department and the governor when it determines that a mental health facility has not either implemented written recommendations or provided a specific rationale that explains why any recommendations cannot be implemented.

(4) (a) The board, by applying a sampling process during a scheduled inspection of a mental health facility, shall ensure that a treatment plan and a discharge plan exists and is being implemented for each patient admitted or committed to the mental health facility being inspected under this part.

(b) The board, during a scheduled inspection of a mental health facility, shall review all spects of the treatment of persons admitted to mental health facilities and review the use of reatment procedures that involve behavior control, including but not limited to the use of any ype of mechanical restraints, locked and unlocked seclusion or isolation, time out, or any other procedure involving physical control.

(c) The board shall ensure that the use of treatment procedures described in subsection (4)(b) at inspected mental health facilities is clinically justified, is monitored closely by a medical doctor and other mental health professionals, is implemented only when other less restrictive measures have failed, and is implemented to the least extent necessary to protect the safety and health of the affected individual or others in the immediate environment.

(d) The board may exercise the prerogative to inquire about and ensure the existence and mplementation of treatment plans and discharge plans for any person admitted to a mental health facility and to inquire about and ensure the appropriate use of treatment procedures described in subsection (4)(b) with any person admitted to a mental health facility independent f its facility inspection schedule.

(5) The board may assist any person who is receiving or who has received treatment at a mental health facility in resolving any grievance the person may have concerning the person's dmission or course of treatment in the facility.

(6) The board shall employ and is responsible for full-time legal counsel at the state hospital, whose responsibility is to act on behalf of all patients at the state hospital. The board hall ensure that there are sufficient legal staff and facilities to ensure availability to all patients nd shall require that the appointed counsel periodically interview every patient and examine he patient's files and records. The board may employ additional legal counsel for representation f patients in a similar manner at any other mental health facility having inpatient capability.

(7) (a) If the board believes that any facility is failing to comply with the provisions of this part in regard to its physical facilities or its treatment of any person, it shall report its findings in writing to the professional person in charge of the facility and the director of the department.

(b) The professional person in charge of the facility shall submit a written response to the board within 10 working days of the receipt of the board's written findings provided for in subsection (7)(a) that includes an explanation of the facility's point of view regarding the board's concerns, including areas of disagreement and agreement. If the facility is in full or partial agreement with the board's concerns, its written response must include actions that it has taken or that it plans to take to address the concerns.

(c) If the facility's written response does not resolve the concerns to the board's satisfaction, the board and the professional person in charge of the facility shall meet in person within 15 working days of the board's receipt of the facility's response to seek a mutually agreed upon resolution.

(8) The board shall publish standards for its inspections of mental health facilities.

(9) The board shall report annually to the governor concerning:

(a) the status of the mental health facilities and treatment programs that it has inspected since the last annual report; and

(b) occurrences of the administration of medications against the wishes of persons receiving treatment in mental health facilities and the effectiveness of the review procedure required by 53-21-127(6) in protecting persons from unnecessary or excessive medication.

History: En. 38-1330 by Sec. 30, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1330(2) thru (9); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Procedural rights, 53-20-112.
Denial of legal rights, 53-20-141.
Protection and advocacy system — designation and authority, 53-21-169.

53-21-105. Certification of professional persons required. A person may not act in a professional capacity as provided for in this part unless the person is a professional person as defined in 53-21-102.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 578, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1911, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-21-106. Certification of professional persons. (1) The department shall certify professional persons as defined in 53-21-102 for the purpose of this part.

(2) The department, with reference to recognized national standards in the field of mental health, shall adopt standards and rules governing the certification of professional persons as defined in 53-21-102.

(3) The rules for certification must address but are not limited to:

(a) the type of education that an individual has received, including degrees;

(b) the type of experience or training received by the individual;

(c) continuing education, training, instruction, and work experience necessary to maintain certification;

(d) an examination instrument to be used to determine an individual's proficiency and understanding of mental health laws, diagnosis, and treatment procedures;

(e) the procedure for categorical certification qualifying the level of professional authority and responsibility of an individual; and

(f) specific procedures for certification, recertification, and revocation of certification.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 578, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 487, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Qualifications of professional person, 53-21-161.

53-21-107. Abuse and neglect of persons admitted to mental health facility prohibited — reporting — investigations. (1) Any form of abuse or neglect of a person admitted to a mental health facility is prohibited.

(2) Each mental health facility shall publish policies and procedures that define the facility's guidelines for detecting, reporting, investigating, determining the validity, and resolving allegations of abuse or neglect.

(3) Each allegation of abuse or neglect must be reported as follows:

(a) Any employee of the mental health facility with knowledge of the allegation shall immediately report the allegation to the professional person in charge of the facility.

(b) The professional person in charge of the mental health facility shall report the allegation by the end of the next business day, in writing, to the board.

(c) When the allegation of abuse or neglect may constitute a criminal act, the professional person in charge of the mental health facility shall immediately report the allegation to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

(4) Each mental health facility shall provide a mechanism for reporting allegations of abuse or neglect that in no way deters or discourages an individual from reporting the allegations.

(5) Investigations of allegations of abuse or neglect must be initiated by the professional person in charge of the facility as soon as possible after the initial report of the incident, but not later than by the end of the next business day. Initiation of each investigation may not be delayed in any way that adversely affects the efficacy of the investigation. However, the nvestigation must be initiated immediately when there is a report of an alleged criminal act.

(6) The investigation of each allegation of abuse or neglect must be concluded within the minimum period of time necessary to gather the information relative to each allegation and to come to a conclusion following the initial report of the allegation.

(7) Each mental health facility shall document the following in writing regarding each allegation of abuse or neglect:

(a) details of each allegation of abuse or neglect, including the names of any facility staff against whom the allegation is made;

(b) a description of the rationale for conducting the investigation with either in-house or outside personnel;

(c) details of the process of the investigation of each allegation of abuse or neglect;

(d) details of the conclusions of the investigation; and

(e) details of corrective action taken.

(8) Mental health facilities shall provide a copy of the written report described in subsections (7)(a) through (7)(e) within 5 working days of the completion of each investigation to the director of the department and to the board.

(9) (a) For each allegation of abuse or neglect involving the Montana state hospital, the director of the department shall report the following information to the state protection and advocacy program for individuals with mental illness authorized under 42 U.S.C. 10805(b)(2) to investigate reports of abuse and neglect:

(i) within 5 working days of the incident, the details of the reported allegation; and

(ii) within 5 working days of the completion of the investigation into the report, the written record created pursuant to subsection (7).

(b) The director may not redact any information provided pursuant to this subsection (9).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 344, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 776, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 776, L. 2023. Amendment effective une 8, 2023.

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 776, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved June 8, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

53-21-108 through 53-21-110 reserved.

53-21-111. Voluntary admission — content of admission form — requirements for valid admission. (1) (a) This part may not be construed to limit the right of a person to make voluntary application for admission at any time to a mental health facility or professional person.

(b) An application for admission to a mental health facility must be in writing on a form prescribed by the facility. The form must explain:

(i) the process for requesting release and that the request must be in writing;

(ii) that the individual applying for release may be held involuntarily for up to 5 days after requesting release; and

(iii) that the facility may request a court to involuntarily commit the applicant.

(c) A statement of the rights of the person voluntarily applying for admission, as set out in this part, must be furnished to the patient within 12 hours.

(2) An applicant who wishes to voluntarily apply for admission to the state hospital shall first obtain certification from a professional person that the applicant is suffering from a mental disorder. The professional person shall then obtain confirmation from the department or the department's designee that the facilities available to the mental health region in which the applicant resides are unable to provide adequate evaluation and treatment. The department shall adopt rules to establish a procedure whereby a professional person shall obtain the confirmation from the department or the department's designee as required in this section.

(3) An application for voluntary admission must give the facility the right to detain the applicant for no more than 5 days, excluding weekends and holidays, past the applicant's written request for release. A mental health facility may adopt rules providing for detention of the applicant for less than 5 days. The facility shall notify all applicants of the rules and post the rules as provided in 53-21-168.

(4) An individual applying for voluntary admission pursuant to this section may not be admitted unless:

(a) the admission is approved by a professional person;

(b) the individual applying for admission has been informed orally of the matters required by subsection (1)(b) to be stated in the written application for admission;

(c) a copy of the written application for admission has been given to the applicant; and

(d) the admission otherwise complies with the requirements of this section.

(5) A person voluntarily entering or remaining in a mental health facility shall enjoy all the rights secured to a person involuntarily committed to the facility.

History: En. 38-1303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1303(1) thru (3), (6); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 603, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 590, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

53-21-112. Voluntary admission of minors. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent or guardian of a minor may consent to mental health services to be rendered to the minor by:

(a) a facility;

(b) a person licensed in this state to practice medicine; or

(c) a mental health professional licensed in this state.

(2) A minor who is at least 16 years of age may, without the consent of a parent or guardian, consent to receive mental health services from those facilities or persons listed in subsection (1).

(3) Except as provided by this section, the provisions of 53-21-111 apply to the voluntary admission of a minor to a mental health facility but not to the state hospital.

(4) Except as provided by this subsection, voluntary admission of a minor to a mental health facility for an inpatient course of treatment is for the same period of time as that for an adult. A minor voluntarily admitted with consent of the minor's parent or guardian has the right to be released within 5 days of a request by the parent or guardian as provided in 53-21-111(3). A minor who has been admitted without consent by a parent or guardian, pursuant to subsection (2), may also make a request and also has the right to be released within 5 days as provided in 53-21-111(3). Unless there has been a periodic review and a voluntary readmission consented to by the parent or guardian in the case of a minor patient or consented to by the minor alone in the case of a minor patient who is at least 16 years of age, voluntary admission terminates at the expiration of 1 year. At the minor's request or at any time that the minor is faced with potential legal proceedings, the court shall order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel for the minor.

History: En. 38-1303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1303(7) thru (9); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Validity of consent of minor for health services, 41-1-402.

53-21-113. Costs of committing a patient already voluntarily admitted — transportation costs for voluntary admission. (1) The cost of involuntarily committing a patient who is voluntarily admitted to a mental health facility at the time the involuntary proceedings are commenced must be paid by the county of the patient's residence at the time of admission.

(2) The costs of transportation to a mental health facility under 53-21-111 and 53-21-112 must be provided by the local office of public assistance located in the county of the patient's residence. However, if protective proceedings under Title 72, chapter 5, have been or are initiated with respect to the person, the local office of public assistance may seek reimbursement. If no one else is available to transport the person, the sheriff shall transport the person.

History: **En. 38-1303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1303(4), (5); amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 571, L. 2001.**

53-21-114. Notice of rights to be given. (1) Whenever a person is involuntarily detained pursuant to 53-21-121 through 53-21-126, the person must at the time of detention be informed of the person's constitutional rights and the person's rights under this part. Within 3 days of detention, the person must also be informed in writing by the county attorney of the enumerated rights.

(2) A respondent who is subject to an order for short-term treatment or long-term care and treatment must be advised in writing of the right to appeal the order by the court at the conclusion of any hearing as a result of which an order may be entered.

History: **(1)En. 38-1304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1304, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1304, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1304(part), 38-1309(4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 522, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1912, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.

53-21-115. Procedural rights. In addition to any other rights that may be guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and of this state, by the laws of this state, or by this part, any person who is involuntarily detained or against whom a petition is filed pursuant to this part has the following rights:

(1) the right to notice reasonably in advance of any hearing or other court proceeding concerning the person;

(2) the right in any hearing to be present, to offer evidence, and to present witnesses in any proceeding concerning the person;

(3) the right to know, before a hearing, the names and addresses of any witnesses who will testify in support of a petition;

(4) the right in any hearing to cross-examine witnesses;

(5) the right to be represented by counsel;

(6) the right to remain silent;

(7) the right in any hearing to be proceeded against according to the rules of evidence applicable to civil matters generally;

(8) the right to view and copy all petitions on file with the court concerning the person;

(9) the right to be examined by a professional person of the person's choice when the professional person is willing and reasonably available;

(10) the right to be dressed in the person's own clothes at any hearing held pursuant to this part;

(11) the right to refuse any but lifesaving medication for up to 24 hours prior to any hearing held pursuant to this part; and

(12) the right to voluntarily take necessary medications prior to any hearing pursuant to this part.

History: **En. 38-1304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1304(4); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 490, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.

53-21-116. Right to be present at hearing or trial — assignment of counsel. The person alleged to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment has the right to be present and the right to counsel at any hearing or trial. If the person is indigent or if in the court's discretion assignment of counsel is in the best interest of justice, the judge shall order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to immediately assign counsel to represent the person at either the hearing or the trial, or both.

History: **En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1309(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 583, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 358, L. 2017.**

53-21-117. Right to representation by own attorney. The respondent or the friend of respondent appointed by the court may secure an attorney of the person's own choice and at the person's own expense to represent the respondent.

History: **En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1309(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1913, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-21-118. Right to examination by professional person of own choosing. (1) The respondent, the respondent's attorney, or the friend of respondent appointed by the court may secure a professional person of the individual's own choice to examine the respondent and to testify at the hearing before the court or jury as to the results of the professional person's examination.

(2) If the person wishing to secure the testimony of a professional person is unable to do so because of financial reasons and if the respondent joins in the request for the examination, the court shall appoint a professional person other than the professional person requesting the commitment to perform the examination. Whenever possible, the court shall allow the respondent a reasonable choice of an available professional person qualified to perform the requested examination who will be compensated from the public funds of the county where the respondent resides.

History: **En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1309(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1914, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-21-119. Waiver of rights. (1) A person may waive the person's rights, or if the person is not capable of making an intentional and knowing decision, these rights may be waived by the person's counsel and friend of respondent, if a friend of respondent is appointed, acting together if a record is made of the reasons for the waiver. The right to counsel may not be waived. The right to treatment provided for in this part may not be waived.

(2) The right of the respondent to be physically present at a hearing may also be waived by the respondent's attorney and the friend of respondent with the concurrence of the professional person and the judge upon a finding supported by facts that:

(a) (i) the presence of the respondent at the hearing would be likely to seriously adversely affect the respondent's mental condition; and

(ii) an alternative location for the hearing in surroundings familiar to the respondent would not prevent the adverse effects on the respondent's mental condition; or

(b) the respondent has voluntarily expressed a desire to waive the respondent's presence at the hearing.

(3) (a) In the case of a minor, provided that a record is made of the reasons for the waiver, the minor's rights may be waived by the mutual consent of the minor's counsel and parents or guardian or guardian ad litem if there are no parents or guardian.

(b) If there is an apparent conflict of interest between a minor and the minor's parents or guardian, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem for the minor.

History: **En. 38-1304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1304(part); amd. Secs. 6, 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1915, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 2013.**

53-21-120. Detention to be in least restrictive environment — preference for mental health facility — court relief — prehearing detention of mentally ill person prohibited. (1) A person detained pursuant to this part must be detained in the least restrictive environment required to protect the life and physical safety of the person detained or members of the public; in this respect, prevention of significant injury to property may be considered.

(2) Whenever possible, a person detained pursuant to this part must be detained in a mental health facility and in the county of residence. If the person detained demands a jury trial and the trial cannot be held within 7 days, subject to the provisions in 53-21-193, the individual may be sent to the state hospital or a behavioral health inpatient facility until the time of trial if arrangements can be made to return the person to trial. The trial must be held within 30 days. The county of residence shall pay the cost of travel and professional services associated with the trial. A person may not be detained in any hospital or other medical facility that is not a mental health facility unless the hospital or facility has agreed in writing to admit the person.

(3) A person may not be detained pursuant to this part in a jail or other correctional facility.

(4) A person detained prior to involuntary commitment may apply to the court for immediate relief with respect to the need for detention or the adequacy of the facility being utilized to detain.

History: **En. 38-1304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1304(5); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 636, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 513, L. 2003.**

53-21-121. Petition for commitment — contents of — notice of. (1) The county attorney, upon the written request of any person having direct knowledge of the facts, may file a petition with the court alleging that there is a person within the county who is suffering from a mental disorder and who requires commitment pursuant to this chapter.

(2) The petition must contain:

(a) the name and address of the person requesting the petition and the person's interest in the case;

(b) the name of the respondent and, if known, the address, age, sex, as defined in 1-1-201, marital status, and occupation of the respondent;

(c) the purported facts supporting the allegation of mental disorder, including a report by a mental health professional if any, a statement of the disposition sought pursuant to 53-21-127, and the need for commitment;

(d) the name and address of every person known or believed to be legally responsible for the care, support, and maintenance of the respondent for whom evaluation is sought;

(e) the name and address of the respondent's next of kin to the extent known to the county attorney and the person requesting the petition;

(f) the name and address of any person whom the county attorney believes might be willing and able to be appointed as friend of respondent;

(g) the name, address, and telephone number of the attorney, if any, who has most recently represented the respondent for whom evaluation is sought; if there is no attorney, there must be a statement as to whether to the best knowledge of the person requesting the petition the respondent for whom evaluation is sought is indigent and unable to afford the services of an attorney;

(h) a statement of the rights of the respondent, which must be in conspicuous print and identified by a suitable heading; and

(i) the name and address of the mental health facility to which it is proposed that the respondent may be committed, if known.

(3) Notice of the petition must be hand-delivered to the respondent and to the respondent's counsel on or before the initial appearance of the respondent before the judge or justice of the peace. The respondent's counsel shall meet with the respondent, explain the substance of the petition, and explain the probable course of the proceedings. Notice of the petition and the order setting the date and time of the hearing and the names of the respondent's counsel, professional person, and friend of respondent must be hand-delivered, mailed, or sent by a facsimile transmission to the person or persons legally responsible for care, support, and maintenance of the respondent, the next of kin identified in the petition, any other person identified by the county attorney as a possible friend of respondent other than the one named as the friend of respondent, the director of the department or the director's designee, and the mental health facility to which the respondent may be committed, if known. The notice may provide, other than as to the respondent and the respondent's counsel, that no further notice will be given unless written request is filed with the clerk of court.

History: **En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 685, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 36, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Mileage and expenses of Sheriff for delivery of mentally ill persons, 7-32-2144.

53-21-122. Petition for commitment — filing of — initial hearing on. (1) The petition must be filed with the clerk of court who shall immediately notify the judge.

(2) (a) The judge shall consider the petition. If the judge finds no probable cause, the petition must be dismissed. If the judge finds probable cause and the respondent does not have private counsel present, the judge may order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to immediately assign counsel for the respondent, and the respondent must be brought before the court with the respondent's counsel. The respondent must be advised of the respondent's constitutional rights, the respondent's rights under this part, and the substantive effect of the petition. The respondent must also be advised that the professional person appointed to conduct the examination under 53-21-123 will include in the professional person's report a recommendation about whether the respondent should be diverted from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment provided for in 53-21-1205 and 53-21-1206 or to a category D assisted living facility as provided in 53-21-199. The respondent may at this appearance object to the finding of probable cause for filing the petition. The judge shall appoint a professional person and set a date and time for the hearing on the petition that may not be on the same day as the initial appearance and that may not exceed 5 days, including weekends and holidays, unless the fifth day falls upon a weekend or holiday and unless additional time is requested on behalf of the respondent.

(b) If the court finds that an appropriate person is willing and able to perform the functions of a friend of respondent as set out in this part and the respondent personally or through counsel consents, the court shall appoint the person as the friend of respondent. The friend of respondent may be the next of kin, the person's conservator or legal guardian, if any, a representative of a charitable or religious organization, or any other person appointed by the court. Only one person may at any one time be the friend of respondent within the meaning of this part. The court may at any time, for good cause, change its designation of the friend of respondent. The court shall change the designation of the friend of respondent at the request of the respondent or if it determines that a conflict of interest exists between the respondent and the friend of respondent.

(3) If a judge is not available in the county in person, the clerk shall notify a resident judge by telephone and shall read the petition to the judge. The judge may do all things necessary through the clerk of court by telephone as if the judge were personally present, including ordering the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to immediately provide assigned counsel. The judge, through the clerk of court, may also order that the respondent be brought before a justice of the peace with the respondent's counsel to be advised of the respondent's constitutional rights, the respondent's rights under this part, and the contents of the order, as well as to furnish the respondent with a copy of the order. The respondent must also be advised that the professional person appointed to conduct the examination under 53-21-123 will include in the professional person's report a recommendation about whether the respondent should be diverted from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment provided for in 53-21-1205 and 53-21-1206 or to a category D assisted living facility as provided in 53-21-199. The justice of the peace shall ascertain the desires of the respondent with respect to the assignment of counsel or the hiring of private counsel, pursuant to 53-21-116 and 53-21-117, and this information must be immediately communicated to the resident judge.

History: En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(3); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 358, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 402, L. 2017.

53-21-123. Examination of respondent following initial hearing — recommendation of professional person. (1) Following the initial hearing, whether before a judge or justice of the peace, the respondent must be examined by the professional person without unreasonable delay. The examination may not exceed a period of 4 hours. The professional person shall immediately notify the county attorney of the findings in person or by phone and shall make a written report of the examination to the court, with copies to the respondent's attorney and the county attorney.

(2) (a) The professional person shall include in the report a recommendation about whether the respondent should be:

(i) diverted from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment provided for under 53-21-1205 and 53-21-1206; or

(ii) evaluated for eligibility as a resident in a category D assisted living facility as provided in 53-21-199.

(b) If the professional person recommends commitment, the professional person's written report must contain a statement of the professional person's recommendations to the court for disposition under 53-21-127.

(3) The following action must be taken based on the professional person's findings:

(a) If the professional person recommends dismissal, the professional person shall additionally notify counsel and the respondent must be released and the petition dismissed. However, the county attorney may, upon good cause shown, request the court to order an additional, but no more than one, examination by a different professional person for a period of no more than 4 hours.

(b) If the professional person recommends diversion from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment or an option for living in a category D assisted living facility, the court shall suspend the commitment hearing unless the county attorney or the respondent's attorney objects within 24 hours of receiving notice of the professional person's recommendation.

(c) If the court finds that commitment proceedings should continue, the hearing must be held as scheduled.

(4) The court may not order further evaluation pending the hearing unless sound medical reasons require additional time for a complete evaluation. The reasons must be set forth in the order, along with the amount of additional time needed.

History: En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(4); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 481, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 402, L. 2017.

53-21-124. Detention of respondent pending hearing or trial — jail prohibited. (1) The court may not order detention of a respondent pending the hearing unless requested by the county attorney and upon the existence of probable cause for detention. Counsel must be orally notified immediately. Counsel for the respondent may then request a detention hearing, which must be held immediately.

(2) In the event of detention, the respondent must be detained in the least restrictive setting necessary to ensure the respondent's presence and ensure the safety of the respondent and of others as provided in 53-21-120.

(3) If the respondent is detained, the respondent has the right to be examined additionally by a professional person of the respondent's choice, which may not depend on the respondent's ability to pay, and the respondent must be informed of this right. Unless objection is made by counsel for the respondent, the respondent must continue to be evaluated and treated by the professional person pending the hearing.

(4) A respondent may not be detained in a jail or other correctional facility pending a hearing or trial to determine whether the respondent should be committed to a mental health facility.

History: En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(5); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 312, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 636, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 342, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Mileage and expenses of Sheriff for delivery of mentally ill persons, 7-32-2144.

53-21-125. Request for jury trial. At any time prior to the date set for hearing, the respondent, through counsel, may request a jury trial, and upon the request, the time set for hearing must be vacated and the matter set on the court's jury calendar at the earliest date possible, the matter taking precedence over all other matters. If there is not a jury in attendance, a jury must be selected in the manner provided in 3-15-506 and a date must be set for trial by a jury within 7 days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

History: En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(part); amd. Sec. 1916, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17, Mont. Const.

53-21-126. *(Temporary)* **Trial or hearing on petition.** (1) The respondent must be present unless the respondent's presence has been waived as provided in 53-21-119(2), and the respondent must be represented by counsel at all stages of the trial. The trial must be limited to the determination of whether or not the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. At the trial, the court shall consider all the facts relevant to the issues of whether the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder. If the court determines that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder, the court shall then determine whether the respondent requires commitment. In determining whether the respondent requires commitment and the appropriate disposition under 53-21-127, the court shall consider the following:

(a) whether the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

(b) whether the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an omission, caused self-injury or injury to others;

(c) whether, because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to others because of the respondent's acts or omissions; and

(d) whether the respondent's mental disorder, as demonstrated by the respondent's recent acts or omissions, will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point at which the respondent will become a danger to self or to others or will be unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety. Predictability may be established by the respondent's relevant medical history.

(2) The standard of proof in a hearing held pursuant to this section is proof beyond a reasonable doubt with respect to any physical facts or evidence and clear and convincing evidence as to all other matters. However, the respondent's mental disorder must be proved to a reasonable medical certainty. Imminent threat of self-inflicted injury or injury to others must be proved by overt acts or omissions, sufficiently recent in time as to be material and relevant as to the respondent's present condition.

(3) The professional person appointed by the court must be present for the trial and subject to cross-examination. The professional person's presence may be accomplished by the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication. The trial is governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. However, if the issues are tried by a jury, at least two-thirds of the jurors shall concur on a finding that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. The written report of the professional person that indicates the professional person's diagnosis may be attached to the petition, but any matter otherwise inadmissible, such as hearsay matter, is not admissible merely because it is contained in the report. The court may order the trial closed to the public for the protection of the respondent.

(4) The professional person may testify as to the ultimate issue of whether the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. This testimony is insufficient unless accompanied by evidence from the professional person or others that:

(a) the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

(b) the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an omission, caused self-injury or injury to others;

(c) because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to others because of the respondent's acts or omissions; or

(d) (i) the respondent's mental disorder:

(A) has resulted in recent acts, omissions, or behaviors that create difficulty in protecting the respondent's life or health;

(B) is treatable, with a reasonable prospect of success;

(C) has resulted in the respondent's refusing or being unable to consent to voluntary admission for treatment; and

(ii) will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point at which the respondent will become a danger to self or to others or will be unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety. Predictability may be established by the respondent's relevant medical history.

(5) The court, upon the showing of good cause and when it is in the best interests of the respondent, may order a change of venue.

(6) An individual with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder who also has a co-occurring diagnosis of chemical dependency may satisfy criteria for commitment under this part.

53-21-126. *(Effective July 1, 2025)* **Trial or hearing on petition.** (1) The respondent must be present unless the respondent's presence has been waived as provided in 53-21-119(2), and the respondent must be represented by counsel at all stages of the trial. The trial must be limited to the determination of whether or not the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. At the trial, the court shall consider all the facts relevant to the issues of whether the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder. If the court determines that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder, the court shall then determine whether the respondent requires commitment. In determining whether the respondent requires commitment and the appropriate disposition under 53-21-127, the court shall consider the following:

(a) whether the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

(b) whether the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an omission, caused self-injury or injury to others;

(c) whether, because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to others because of the respondent's acts or omissions; and

(d) (i) whether the respondent's mental disorder, as demonstrated by the respondent's recent acts or omissions, will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point at which the respondent will:

(A) become a danger to self or to others; or

(B) be unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety.

(ii) Predictability may be established by the respondent's relevant medical history.

(2) The standard of proof in a hearing held pursuant to this section is proof beyond a reasonable doubt with respect to any physical facts or evidence and clear and convincing evidence as to all other matters. However, the respondent's mental disorder must be proved to a reasonable medical certainty. Imminent threat of self-inflicted injury or injury to others must be proved by overt acts or omissions, sufficiently recent in time as to be material and relevant as to the respondent's present condition.

(3) The professional person appointed by the court must be present for the trial and subject to cross-examination. The professional person's presence may be accomplished by the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication. The trial is governed by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. However, if the issues are tried by a jury, at least two-thirds of the jurors shall concur on a finding that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. The written report of the professional person that indicates the professional person's diagnosis may be attached to the petition, but any matter otherwise inadmissible, such as hearsay matter, is not admissible merely because it is contained in the report. The court may order the trial closed to the public for the protection of the respondent.

(4) The professional person may testify as to the ultimate issue of whether the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment. This testimony is insufficient unless accompanied by evidence from the professional person or others that:

(a) the respondent, because of a mental disorder, is substantially unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

(b) the respondent has recently, because of a mental disorder and through an act or an omission, caused self-injury or injury to others;

(c) because of a mental disorder, there is an imminent threat of injury to the respondent or to others because of the respondent's acts or omissions; or

(d) (i) the respondent's mental disorder:

(A) has resulted in recent acts, omissions, or behaviors that create difficulty in protecting the respondent's life or health;

(B) is treatable, with a reasonable prospect of success;

(C) has resulted in the respondent's refusing or being unable to consent to voluntary admission for treatment; and

(ii) will, if untreated, predictably result in deterioration of the respondent's mental condition to the point at which the respondent will become a danger to self or to others or will be unable to provide for the respondent's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety. Predictability may be established by the respondent's relevant medical history.

(5) The court, upon the showing of good cause and when it is in the best interests of the respondent, may order a change of venue.

(6) An individual with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder who also has a co-occurring diagnosis of chemical dependency may satisfy criteria for commitment under this part.

(7) An individual with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury may be committed under this part only if the person meets the criteria outlined in subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d)(i)(A).

History: En. 38-1305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 81, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 757, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: (Both versions) Section 1, Ch. 757, L. 2023, in (3) inserted second sentence concerning the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

(Version effective July 1, 2025) Section 1, Ch. 777, L. 2023, in (1)(d)(i)(B) at beginning deleted "will"; inserted (7) concerning commitment of an individual with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2025.

53-21-127. *(Temporary)* **Posttrial disposition.** (1) If, upon trial, it is determined that the respondent is not suffering from a mental disorder or does not require commitment within the meaning of this part, the respondent must be discharged and the petition dismissed.

(2) If it is determined that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment within the meaning of this part, the court shall hold a posttrial disposition hearing. The disposition hearing must be held within 5 days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays unless the fifth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday), during which time the court may order further evaluation and treatment of the respondent.

(3) At the conclusion of the disposition hearing and pursuant to the provisions in subsection (7), the court shall:

(a) subject to the provisions of 53-21-193, commit the respondent to the state hospital or to a behavioral health inpatient facility for a period of not more than 3 months;

(b) commit the respondent to a community facility, which may include a category D assisted living facility, or a community program or to any appropriate course of treatment, which may include housing or residential requirements or conditions as provided in 53-21-149, for a period of:

(i) not more than 3 months; or

(ii) not more than 6 months in order to provide the respondent with a less restrictive commitment in the community rather than a more restrictive placement in the state hospital if a respondent has been previously involuntarily committed for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility and the court determines that the admission of evidence of the previous involuntary commitment is relevant to the criterion of predictability, as provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), and outweighs the prejudicial effect of its admission, as provided in 53-21-190; or

(c) commit the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center for a period of not more than 3 months if the following conditions are met:

(i) the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center as described in 53-21-411 and established in administrative rules of the department; and

(ii) the superintendent of the center has issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for admission.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(ii), a treatment ordered pursuant to this section may not affect the respondent's custody or course of treatment for a period of more than 3 months.

(5) In determining which of the alternatives in subsection (3) to order, the court shall choose the least restrictive alternatives necessary to protect the respondent and the public and to permit effective treatment.

(6) The court may authorize the chief medical officer of a facility or a physician designated by the court to administer appropriate medication involuntarily if the court finds that involuntary medication is necessary to protect the respondent or the public or to facilitate effective treatment. Medication may not be involuntarily administered to a patient unless the chief medical officer

of the facility or a physician designated by the court approves it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration and unless, if possible, a medication review committee reviews it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration or, if prior review is not possible, within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The medication review committee must include at least one person who is not an employee of the facility or program. The patient and the patient's attorney or advocate, if the patient has one, must receive adequate written notice of the date, time, and place of the review and must be allowed to appear and give testimony and evidence. The involuntary administration of medication must be again reviewed by the committee 14 days and 90 days after the beginning of the involuntary administration if medication is still being involuntarily administered. The mental disabilities board of visitors and the director of the department of public health and human services must be fully informed of the matter within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The director shall report to the governor on an annual basis.

(7) Satisfaction of any one of the criteria listed in 53-21-126(1) justifies commitment pursuant to this chapter. However, if the court relies solely upon the criterion provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), the court may require commitment only to a community facility, which may include a category D assisted living facility, or a program or an appropriate course of treatment, as provided in subsection (3)(b), and may not require commitment at the state hospital, a behavioral health inpatient facility, or the Montana mental health nursing care center.

(8) In ordering commitment pursuant to this section, the court shall make the following findings of fact:

(a) a detailed statement of the facts upon which the court found the respondent to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment;

(b) the alternatives for treatment that were considered;

(c) the alternatives available for treatment of the respondent;

(d) the reason that any treatment alternatives were determined to be unsuitable for the respondent;

(e) the name of the facility, program, or individual to be responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's treatment;

(f) if the order includes a requirement for inpatient treatment, the reason inpatient treatment was chosen from among other alternatives;

(g) if the order commits the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center, a finding that the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center and that the superintendent of the center has issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for admission;

(h) if the order provides for an evaluation to determine eligibility for entering a category D assisted living facility, a finding that indicates whether:

(i) the respondent meets the admission criteria;

(ii) there is availability in a category D assisted living facility; and

(iii) a category D assisted living facility is the least restrictive environment because the respondent is unlikely to benefit from involuntary commitment to facilities with more intensive treatment; and

(i) if the order includes involuntary medication, the reason involuntary medication was chosen from among other alternatives.

53-21-127. *(Effective July 1, 2025)* **Posttrial disposition.** (1) A respondent must be discharged and the petition dismissed if, upon trial, it is determined that the respondent:

(a) is not suffering from a mental disorder;

(b) does not require commitment within the meaning of this part; or

(c) is suffering from a mental disorder but the respondent's primary diagnosis is Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury and the respondent meets only the commitment criteria outlined in 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B).

(2) If it is determined that the respondent is suffering from a mental disorder and requires commitment within the meaning of this part, the court shall hold a posttrial disposition hearing. The disposition hearing must be held within 5 days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays unless the fifth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday), during which time the court may order further evaluation and treatment of the respondent.

(3) At the conclusion of the disposition hearing and pursuant to the provisions in subsection (7), the court shall:

(a) subject to the provisions of 53-21-193, commit the respondent to the state hospital or to a behavioral health inpatient facility for a period of not more than 3 months;

(b) commit the respondent to a community facility, which may include a category D assisted living facility, or a community program or to any appropriate course of treatment, which may include housing or residential requirements or conditions as provided in 53-21-149, for a period of:

(i) not more than 3 months; or

(ii) not more than 6 months in order to provide the respondent with a less restrictive commitment in the community rather than a more restrictive placement in the state hospital if a respondent has been previously involuntarily committed for inpatient treatment in a mental health facility and the court determines that the admission of evidence of the previous involuntary commitment is relevant to the criterion of predictability, as provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), and outweighs the prejudicial effect of its admission, as provided in 53-21-190; or

(c) commit the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center for a period of not more than 3 months if the following conditions are met:

(i) the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center as described in 53-21-411 and established in administrative rules of the department; and

(ii) the superintendent of the center has issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for admission.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b)(ii), a treatment ordered pursuant to this section may not affect the respondent's custody or course of treatment for a period of more than 3 months.

(5) In determining which of the alternatives in subsection (3) to order, the court shall choose the least restrictive alternatives necessary to protect the respondent and the public and to permit effective treatment.

(6) The court may authorize the chief medical officer of a facility or a physician designated by the court to administer appropriate medication involuntarily if the court finds that involuntary medication is necessary to protect the respondent or the public or to facilitate effective treatment. Medication may not be involuntarily administered to a patient unless the chief medical officer of the facility or a physician designated by the court approves it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration and unless, if possible, a medication review committee reviews it prior to the beginning of the involuntary administration or, if prior review is not possible, within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The medication review committee must include at least one person who is not an employee of the facility or program. The patient and the patient's attorney or advocate, if the patient has one, must receive adequate written notice of the date, time, and place of the review and must be allowed to appear and give testimony and evidence. The involuntary administration of medication must be again reviewed by the committee 14 days and 90 days after the beginning of the involuntary administration if medication is still being involuntarily administered. The mental disabilities board of visitors and the director of the department of public health and human services must be fully informed of the matter within 5 working days after the beginning of the involuntary administration. The director shall report to the governor on an annual basis.

(7) Except as provided in 53-21-126(7), satisfaction of any one of the criteria listed in 53-21-126(1) justifies commitment pursuant to this chapter. However, if the court relies solely on the criterion provided in 53-21-126(1)(d), the court may require commitment only to a community facility, which may include a category D assisted living facility, or a program or an appropriate course of treatment, as provided in subsection (3)(b), and may not require commitment at the state hospital, a behavioral health inpatient facility, or the Montana mental health nursing care center.

(8) In ordering commitment pursuant to this section, the court shall make the following findings of fact:

(a) a detailed statement of the facts upon which the court found the respondent to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment;

(b) the alternatives for treatment that were considered;

(c) the alternatives available for treatment of the respondent;

(d) the reason that any treatment alternatives were determined to be unsuitable for the respondent;

(e) the name of the facility, program, or individual to be responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's treatment;

(f) if the order includes a requirement for inpatient treatment, the reason inpatient treatment was chosen from among other alternatives;

(g) if the order commits the respondent to the Montana mental health nursing care center, a finding that the respondent meets the admission criteria of the center and that the superintendent of the center has issued a written authorization specifying a date and time for admission;

(h) if the order provides for an evaluation to determine eligibility for entering a category D assisted living facility, a finding that indicates whether:

(i) the respondent meets the admission criteria;

(ii) there is availability in a category D assisted living facility; and

(iii) a category D assisted living facility is the least restrictive environment because the respondent is unlikely to benefit from involuntary commitment to facilities with more intensive treatment; and

(i) if the order includes involuntary medication, the reason involuntary medication was chosen from among other alternatives.

History: En. 38-1305, 38-1306 by Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1305(part), 38-1306(1); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 434, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 402, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 777, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2025.

Cross-References

Mileage and expenses of Sheriff for delivery of mentally ill persons, 7-32-2144.

53-21-128. Petition for extension of commitment period. (1) (a) Not less than 2 calendar weeks prior to the end of the 3-month period of commitment to the state hospital, a behavioral health inpatient facility, or the Montana mental health nursing care center or the period of commitment to a community facility or program or a course of treatment provided for in 53-21-127, the professional person in charge of the patient at the place of commitment may petition the district court in the county where the patient is committed for extension of the commitment period unless otherwise ordered by the original committing court. The petition must be accompanied by a written report and evaluation of the patient's mental and physical condition. The report must describe any tests and evaluation devices that have been employed in evaluating the patient, the course of treatment that was undertaken for the patient, and the future course of treatment anticipated by the professional person.

(b) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall give written notice of the filing of the petition to the patient, the patient's next of kin, if reasonably available, the friend of respondent appointed by the court, and the patient's counsel. If any person notified requests a hearing prior to the termination of the previous commitment authority, the court shall immediately set a time and place for a hearing on a date not more than 10 days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, from the receipt of the request and notify the same people, including the professional person in charge of the patient. When a hearing is requested less than 10 days prior to the termination of the previous commitment authority, the previous commitment is considered extended until the hearing is held. The notice of hearing must include a notice of this extension. If a hearing is not requested, the court shall enter an order of commitment for a period not to exceed 6 months.

(c) Procedure on the petition for extension when a hearing has been requested must be the same in all respects as the procedure on the petition for the original 3-month commitment, except that the patient is not entitled to a trial by jury. The hearing must be held in the district court having jurisdiction over the facility in which the patient is detained unless otherwise ordered by the court. Court costs and witness fees, if any, must be paid by the county that paid the same costs in the initial commitment proceedings.

(d) If upon the hearing the court finds the patient not to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment within the meaning of this part, the patient must be discharged and the petition dismissed. If the court finds that the patient continues to suffer from a mental disorder and to require commitment, the court shall order commitment as set forth in 53-21-127. However, an order extending the commitment period may not affect the patient's custody for more than 6 months and may not commit the patient to a behavioral health inpatient facility. In its order, the court shall describe what alternatives for treatment of the patient are available, what alternatives were investigated, and why the investigated alternatives were not found suitable. The court may not order continuation of an alternative that does not include a comprehensive, individualized plan of treatment for the patient. A court order for the continuation of an alternative must include a specific finding that a comprehensive, individualized plan of treatment exists.

(2) Prior to the end of the period of commitment to a community facility or program or course of treatment, a respondent may request that the treating provider petition the district court for an extension of the commitment order. The petition must be accompanied by a written report and evaluation of the respondent's mental and physical condition, an updated treatment plan, and a written statement by the respondent that an extension is desired. The extension procedure must follow the procedure required in subsections (1)(b) through (1)(d).

(3) Further extensions under subsection (1) or (2) may be obtained under the same procedure described in subsection (1). However, the patient's custody may not be affected for more than 1 year without a renewal of the commitment under the procedures set forth in subsection (1), including a statement of the findings required by subsection (1).

History: En. 38-1306 by Sec. 6, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1306(3), (4); amd. Secs. 10, 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 376, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 434, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 554, L. 2003.

53-21-129. Emergency situation — petition — detention. (1) When an emergency situation as defined in 53-21-102 exists, a peace officer may take any person who appears to have a mental disorder and to present an imminent danger of death or bodily harm to the person or to others or who appears to have a mental disorder and to be substantially unable to provide for the person's own basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety into custody only for sufficient time to contact a professional person for emergency evaluation. If possible, a professional person should be called prior to taking the person into custody.

(2) If the professional person agrees that the person detained is a danger to the person or to others and that an emergency situation as defined in 53-21-102 exists, then the person may be detained and treated until the next regular business day. At that time, the professional person shall release the detained person or file findings with the county attorney who, if the county attorney determines probable cause to exist, shall file the petition provided for in 53-21-121 through 53-21-126 in the county of the respondent's residence. In either case, the professional person shall file a report with the court explaining the professional person's actions.

(3) The county attorney of a county may make arrangements with a federal, state, regional, or private mental facility or with a mental health facility in a county for the detention of persons held pursuant to this section. If an arrangement has been made with a facility that does not, at the time of the emergency, have a bed available to detain the person at that facility, the person may be transported to the state hospital or to a behavioral health inpatient facility, subject to 53-21-193 and subsection (4) of this section, for detention and treatment as provided in this part. This determination must be made on an individual basis in each case, and the professional person at the local facility shall certify to the county attorney that the facility does not have adequate room at that time.

(4) Before a person may be transferred to the state hospital or to a behavioral health inpatient facility under this section, the state hospital or the behavioral health inpatient facility must be notified prior to transfer and shall state whether a bed is available for the person. If the professional person determines that a behavioral health inpatient facility is the appropriate facility for the emergency detention and a bed is available, the county attorney shall direct the person to the appropriate facility to which the person must be transported for emergency detention.

History: En. 38-1307 by Sec. 7, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1307; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 560, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 116, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 308, L. 2013.

53-21-130. Transfer or commitment to mental health facility from other institutions. (1) A person who is in the custody of the department for any purpose other than treatment of severe mental illness may not be transferred or committed to a mental health facility for more than 10 days unless the transfer or commitment is effected according to the procedures set out in this part. However, proceedings for involuntary commitment may be commenced in the county of the mental health facility where the person is, in the county of the institution from which the person was transferred to the mental health facility, or in the county of the person's residence. Notice of a transfer must be given immediately to the assigned counsel at the mental health facility and to the parents of minors, guardians, friends of respondent, or conservators.

(2) A person who is in the custody of the department of corrections may be transferred for placement in a mental health facility for a period of up to 10 days, subject to the approval of the mental health facility. A placement in excess of 10 days must be performed according to the procedures for voluntary admission or involuntary commitment as provided in this part. Proceedings for involuntary commitment may be commenced in the county of the mental health facility where the person is placed or in the county of the correctional facility from which the person was transferred. Notice of a transfer must be given to the legal counsel for the person and to the parents of minors, guardians, friends of respondent, or conservators.

History: En. 38-1310 by Sec. 10, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1310; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

53-21-131. Appeal procedure. Appellate review of any order of short-term evaluation and treatment or long-term commitment may be had by appeal to the supreme court of Montana in the manner as other civil cases, except that the appeal may be taken at any time within 90 days of the actual service of the written notice of the right to appeal required by 53-21-114 or within 90 days after discharge, whichever is later. The patient shall not be released pending appeal unless ordered by the court. The appeal shall have priority above all other matters before the supreme court.

History: En. 38-1311 by Sec. 11, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1311; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 522, L. 1983.

53-21-132. Cost of examination and commitment. (1) The cost of psychiatric precommitment examination, detention, treatment, and taking a person who is suffering from a mental disorder and who requires commitment to a mental health facility must be paid pursuant to subsection (2)(a). The sheriff must be allowed the actual expenses incurred in taking a committed person to the facility, as provided by 7-32-2144.

(2) (a) The costs of precommitment psychiatric detention, precommitment psychiatric examination, and precommitment psychiatric treatment of the respondent and any cost associated with testimony during an involuntary commitment proceeding by a professional person acting pursuant to 53-21-123 must be billed to the following entities in the listed order of priority:

(i) the respondent, the parent or guardian of a respondent who is a minor, or the respondent's private insurance carrier, if any;

(ii) a public assistance program, such as medicaid, for a qualifying respondent; or

(iii) the county of residence of the respondent in an amount not to exceed the amount paid for the service by a public assistance program.

(b) The county of residence is not required to pay costs of treatment and custody of the respondent after the respondent is committed pursuant to this part. Precommitment costs related to the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication in the county of commitment must be paid by the county in which the person resides at the time that the person is committed. The costs of the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication from the state hospital for a patient who is under a voluntary or involuntary commitment to the state hospital must be paid by the state. The fact that a person is examined, hospitalized, or receives medical, psychological, or other mental health treatment pursuant to this part does not relieve a third party from a contractual obligation to pay for the cost of the examination, hospitalization, or treatment.

(3) The adult respondent or the parent or guardian of a minor shall pay the cost of treatment and custody ordered pursuant to 53-21-127, except to the extent that the adult or minor is eligible for public mental health program funds.

(4) A community service provider that is a private, nonpublic provider may not be required to treat or treat without compensation a person who has been committed.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2311, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1145, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 1442, R.C.M. 1921; Cal Pol. C. Sec. 2175; re-en. Sec. 1442, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 466, L. 1975; Sec. 38-212, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 38-1309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1977; Sec. 38-1309, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 38-212, 38-1309(part); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 583, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 388, L. 2009.

53-21-133. Transfer to nonstate facilities. (1) If a person is committed under the provisions of this part and is eligible for hospital care or treatment by an agency of the United States and if a certificate of notification from the agency showing that facilities are available and that the person is eligible for care or treatment is received, the court may order the person to be placed in the custody of the agency for hospitalization. The chief officer of any hospital or institution operated by an agency and in which a person is hospitalized is vested with the same powers as the superintendent of the state hospital with respect to detention, custody, transfer, conditional release, or discharge of the person. Jurisdiction must be retained in the appropriate courts of this state to inquire into the mental condition of persons hospitalized under this section and to determine the necessity for continuance of their hospitalization.

(2) Consistent with other provisions of this part, a person committed under this part for a period of 3 months or longer may be committed by the court to the custody of friends or next of kin residing outside the state or to a mental health facility located outside the state if the out-of-state facility agrees to receive the patient. The commitment may not be for a longer period of time than is permitted within the state. If the patient is indigent, the expense of supporting the patient in an out-of-state facility and the expense of transportation must be borne by the state of Montana.

(3) The transfer out of Montana of persons committed under the provisions of this part or into Montana under the laws of another jurisdiction must be governed by the provisions of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health.

History: En. 38-1314 by Sec. 14, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1314; amd. Sec. 1917, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Interstate Compact on Mental Health, Title 53, ch. 22.

53-21-134. Receipt of nonresident person suffering from a mental disorder pending return to home state. A person who is suffering from a mental disorder and in need of commitment and who is not a resident of this state may be committed to the state hospital pursuant to this part. The state hospital shall make every effort to return the nonresident to the state of the person's residence as provided in chapter 22, part 1, of this title.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-120; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

53-21-135. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 376, L. 1987.

53-21-136. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 376, L. 1987.

53-21-137. Terminated. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 376, L. 1987.

53-21-138. Renumbered 53-21-1201. Sec. 3(2), Ch. 479, L. 2009.

53-21-139. Renumbered 53-21-1202. Sec. 3(2), Ch. 479, L. 2009.

53-21-140. Use of two-way electronic audio-video communication. (1) For purposes of this chapter, a hearing that is conducted by the use of two-way electronic audio-video communication, allowing all of the participants to be observed and heard by all present, is considered to be a hearing in open court.

(2) Whenever the law requires that a respondent or patient in any of the hearings provided for in subsection (3) be present before a court, this requirement may, in the discretion of the court, be satisfied either by the respondent's or patient's physical appearance before the court or by two-way electronic audio-video communication. The audio-video communication must operate so that the respondent or patient, the respondent's or patient's counsel, and the judge can see each other simultaneously and converse with each other, so that the respondent or patient and the respondent's or patient's counsel can communicate privately, and so that the respondent or patient and counsel are both present during the two-way electronic audio-video communication. A respondent or patient may request that counsel from the board be present, for consulting purposes only, if the respondent or patient is located at the state hospital.

(3) At the discretion of the court, the following hearings may be conducted through two-way electronic audio-video communication:

(a) the initial hearing provided for in 53-21-122;

(b) the detention hearing provided for in 53-21-124;

(c) the trial or hearing on a petition provided for in 53-21-126;

(d) a hearing on posttrial disposition as provided for in 53-21-127;

(e) a hearing on the extension of a commitment period as provided for in 53-21-128;

(f) a hearing on rehospitalization of a person conditionally released from an inpatient treatment facility as provided for in 53-21-197;

(g) a hearing on an extension of the conditions of release as provided for in 53-21-198.

(4) This section does not abrogate a person's rights under 53-21-115, 53-21-116, or 53-21-117. A respondent or patient, the respondent's or patient's counsel, and a friend of respondent or patient, if any, must be informed of these rights prior to a hearing by two-way electronic audio-video communication in lieu of a hearing in person. A respondent or patient or the respondent's or patient's counsel and a friend of respondent or patient, acting together, may waive any of the rights, as provided under 53-21-119.

(5) A two-way electronic audio-video communication may not be used:

(a) in an initial hearing provided for in 53-21-122 if the professional person objects; or

(b) in a hearing referred to in subsections (3)(b) through (3)(g) if a respondent or patient, the respondent's or patient's counsel, or the professional person objects.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 2009.**

53-21-141. Civil and legal rights of person committed. (1) Unless specifically stated in an order by the court, a person involuntarily committed to a facility for a period of evaluation or treatment does not forfeit any legal right or suffer any legal disability by reason of the provisions of this part except as it may be necessary to detain the person for treatment, evaluation, or care. All communication between an alleged mentally ill person and a professional person is privileged under normal privileged communication rules unless it is clearly explained to the person in advance that the purpose of an interview is for evaluation and not treatment.

(2) Whenever a person is committed to a mental health facility for a period of 3 months or longer, the court ordering the commitment may make an order stating specifically any legal rights that are denied the respondent and any legal disabilities that are imposed on the respondent. As part of its order, the court may appoint a person to act as conservator of the respondent's property. Any conservatorship created pursuant to this section terminates upon the conclusion of the involuntary commitment if not sooner terminated by the court. A conservatorship or guardianship extending beyond the period of involuntary commitment may not be created except according to the procedures set forth under Montana law for the appointment of conservators and guardians generally. In the case of a person admitted to a program or facility for the purpose of receiving mental health services, an individual employed by or receiving remuneration from the program or facility may not act as the person's guardian or representative unless the program or facility can demonstrate that no other person is available or willing to act as the person's guardian or representative.

(3) A person who has been committed to a mental health facility pursuant to this part is automatically restored upon the termination of the commitment to all of the person's civil and legal rights that may have been lost when the person was committed. However, this subsection does not affect a guardianship or conservatorship created independently of the commitment proceedings according to the provisions of Montana law relating to the appointment of

conservators and guardians generally. A person who leaves a mental health facility following a period of evaluation and treatment must be given a written statement setting forth the substance of this subsection.

(4) A person committed to a mental health facility prior to July 1, 1975, enjoys all the rights and privileges of a person committed after that date.

History: En. 38-1313 by Sec. 13, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1313(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1918, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Doctor-patient privilege, 26-1-805.

Mental health professional-client privilege, 26-1-807.

Persons under disability guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

53-21-142. Rights of persons admitted to facility. Patients admitted to a mental health facility, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, have the following rights:

(1) Patients have a right to privacy and dignity.

(2) Patients have a right to the least restrictive conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of commitment. Patients must be accorded the right to appropriate treatment and related services in a setting and under conditions that:

(a) are the most supportive of the patient's personal liberty; and

(b) restrict the patient's liberty only to the extent necessary and consistent with the patient's treatment need, applicable requirements of law, and judicial orders.

(3) Patients have rights to visitation and reasonable access to telephone communications, including the right to converse with others privately, except to the extent that the professional person responsible for formulation of a particular patient's treatment plan writes an order imposing special restrictions. The written order must be renewed after each periodic review of the treatment plan if any restrictions are to be continued. Patients have an unrestricted right to visitation with attorneys, with spiritual counselors, and with private physicians and other professional persons.

(4) Patients have an unrestricted right to send sealed mail. Patients have an unrestricted right to receive sealed mail from their attorneys, private physicians and other professional persons, the mental disabilities board of visitors, courts, and government officials. Patients have a right to receive sealed mail from others except to the extent that a professional person responsible for formulation of a particular patient's treatment plan writes an order imposing special restrictions on receipt of sealed mail. The written order must be renewed after each periodic review of the treatment plan if any restrictions are to be continued.

(5) Patients have an unrestricted right to have access to letter-writing materials, including postage, and have a right to have staff members of the facility assist persons who are unable to write, prepare, and mail correspondence.

(6) Patients have a right to wear their own clothes and to keep and use their own personal possessions, including toilet articles, except to the extent that clothes or personal possessions may be determined by a professional person in charge of the patient's treatment plan to be dangerous or otherwise inappropriate to the treatment regimen. The facility has an obligation to supply an adequate allowance of clothing to any patients who do not have suitable clothing of their own. Patients must have the opportunity to select from various types of neat, clean, and seasonable clothing. The clothing must be considered the patient's throughout the patient's stay at the facility. The facility shall make provision for the laundering of patient clothing.

(7) Patients have the right to keep and be allowed to spend a reasonable sum of their own money.

(8) Patients have the right to religious worship. Provisions for worship must be made available to all patients on a nondiscriminatory basis. An individual may not be required to engage in any religious activities.

(9) Patients have a right to regular physical exercise several times a week. The facility shall provide facilities and equipment for physical exercise. Patients have a right to be outdoors at regular and frequent intervals in the absence of contrary medical considerations.

(10) Patients have the right to be provided, with adequate supervision, suitable opportunities for interaction with members of the opposite sex, as defined in 1-1-201, except to the extent that a professional person in charge of the patient's treatment plan writes an order stating that the interaction is inappropriate to the treatment regimen.

(11) Patients have a right to receive prompt and adequate medical treatment for any physical ailments. In providing medical care, the mental health facility shall take advantage of whatever community-based facilities are appropriate and available and shall coordinate the patient's treatment for mental illness with the patient's medical treatment.

(12) Patients have a right to a diet that will provide at a minimum the recommended daily dietary allowances as developed by the national academy of sciences. Provisions must be made for special therapeutic diets and for substitutes at the request of the patient or the friend of respondent in accordance with the religious requirements of any patient's faith. Denial of a nutritionally adequate diet may not be used as punishment.

(13) Patients have a right to a humane psychological and physical environment within the mental health facilities. These facilities must be designed to afford patients with comfort and safety, promote dignity, and ensure privacy. The facilities must be designed to make a positive contribution to the efficient attainment of the treatment goals set for the patient. In order to ensure the accomplishment of this goal:

(a) regular housekeeping and maintenance procedures that will ensure that the facility is maintained in a safe, clean, and attractive condition must be developed and implemented;

(b) there must be special provision made for geriatric and other nonambulatory patients to ensure their safety and comfort, including special fittings on toilets and wheelchairs. Appropriate provision must be made to permit nonambulatory patients to communicate their needs to the facility staff.

(c) pursuant to an established routine maintenance and repair program, the physical plant of each facility must be kept in a continuous state of good repair and operation in accordance with the needs of the health, comfort, safety, and well-being of the patients;

(d) each facility must meet all fire and safety standards established by the state and locality. In addition, any hospital must meet the provisions of the life safety code of the national fire protection association that are applicable to hospitals. A hospital must meet all standards established by the state for general hospitals to the extent that they are relevant to psychiatric facilities.

(14) A patient at a facility has the right:

(a) to be informed of the rights described in this section at the time of admission and periodically after admission in language and terms appropriate to the patient's condition and ability to understand;

(b) to assert grievances with respect to infringement of the rights described in this section, including the right to have a grievance considered in a fair and timely manner according to an mpartial grievance procedure that must be provided for by the facility; and

(c) to exercise the rights described in this section without reprisal and may not be denied admission to the facility as reprisal for the exercise of the rights described in this section.

(15) In order to assist a person admitted to a program or facility in the exercise or protection of the patient's rights, the patient's attorney, advocate, or legal representatives must be given reasonable access to:

(a) the patient;

(b) the program or facility areas where the patient has received treatment or has resided or the areas to which the patient has had access; and

(c) pursuant to the written authorization of the patient, records and information pertaining to the patient's diagnosis, treatment, and related services.

(16) A person admitted to a facility must be given access to any available individual or service that provides advocacy for the protection of the person's rights and that assists the person in understanding, exercising, and protecting the person's rights as described in this section.

(17) This section may not:

(a) obligate a professional person to administer treatment contrary to the professional's clinical judgment;

(b) prevent a facility from discharging a patient for whom appropriate treatment, consistent with the clinical judgment of a professional person responsible for the patient's treatment, is or has become impossible to administer because of the patient's refusal to consent to the treatment;

(c) require a facility to admit a person who has, on prior occasions, repeatedly withheld consent to appropriate treatment; or

(d) obligate a facility to treat a person admitted to the facility solely for diagnostic evaluation.

History: En. 38-1317 by Sec. 17, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1317; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1919, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 37, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Freedom of religion, Art. II, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Adult rights, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

53-21-143. Right not to be fingerprinted. No person admitted to or in a mental health facility shall be fingerprinted unless required by other provisions of law.

History: En. 38-1315 by Sec. 15, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1315.

53-21-144. Rights concerning photographs. (1) A person admitted to a mental health facility may be photographed for the clinical or administrative purposes of the facility. The photographs are confidential. Photographs may be released to a law enforcement agency when needed to aid in the search for a person who has left a facility without authorization from the facility's medical staff and when it is determined that the person is a self-threat or self-danger or a threat or danger to others at the time that the person left the facility. A law enforcement agency may not subsequently release photographs to the public or other persons unless authorized by a court order.

(2) Other nonmedical photographs may not be taken or used without consent of the patient or, if applicable, the patient's legal guardian or without a court order.

History: En. 38-1316 by Sec. 16, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1316; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

53-21-145. Right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication. Patients have a right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication. A medication may not be administered unless at the written order of a physician or advanced practice registered nurse with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing. The attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing is responsible for all medication given or administered to a patient. The use of medication may not exceed standards of use that are advocated by the United States food and drug administration. Notation of each individual's medication must be kept in the individual's medical records. The department shall adopt rules governing attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing review of the drug regimen of each patient under the physician's or the advanced practice registered nurse's care in a mental health facility, except that the drug regimen of inpatients in hospitals must be reviewed no less than weekly. Except in the case of outpatients, all prescriptions must be written with a termination date, which may not exceed 30 days. Medication may not be used as punishment, for the convenience of staff, as a substitute for a treatment program, or in quantities that interfere with the patient's treatment program.

History: En. 38-1319 by Sec. 19, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1319; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 490, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 310, L. 2001.

53-21-146. Right to be free from physical restraint and isolation. Patients have a right to be free from physical restraint and isolation. Except for emergency situations in which it is likely that patients could harm themselves or others and in which less restrictive means of restraint are not feasible, patients may be physically restrained or placed in isolation only on a professional person's written order that explains the rationale for the action. The written order may be entered only after the professional person has personally seen the patient concerned and evaluated the episode or situation that is alleged to call for restraint or isolation. Emergency use of restraints or isolation may not be for more than 1 hour, by which time a professional person must have been consulted and must have entered an appropriate order in writing. The written order is effective for no more than 24 hours and must be renewed if restraint and isolation are to be continued. Whenever a patient is subject to restraint or isolation, adequate care must be taken to monitor the patient's physical and psychiatric condition and to provide for the patient's physical needs and comfort. Physical restraint may not be used as punishment, for the convenience of the staff, or as a substitute for a treatment program.

History: **En. 38-1320 by Sec. 20, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1320; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1920, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-21-147. Right not to be subjected to experimental research. (1) Patients have a right not to be subjected to experimental research without the express and informed consent of the patient, if the patient is able to give consent, and of the patient's guardian, if any, and the friend of respondent appointed by the court after opportunities for consultation with independent specialists and with legal counsel. If there is no friend of respondent or if the friend of respondent appointed by the court is no longer available, then a friend of respondent who is in no way connected with the facility, the department, or the research project must be appointed prior to the involvement of the patient in any experimental research. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of experimental research, the facility shall send notice of intent to involve the patient in experimental research to the patient, the patient's next of kin, if known, the patient's legal guardian, if any, the attorney who most recently represented the patient, and the friend of respondent appointed by the court.

(2) The proposed research must have been reviewed and approved by the mental disabilities board of visitors before consent may be sought. Prior to approval, the board shall determine that the research complies with the principles of the statement on the use of human subjects for research of the American association on mental deficiency and with the principles for research involving human subjects required by the United States department of health and human services for projects supported by that agency.

(3) A patient has the right to appropriate protection before participating in an experimental treatment, including the right to a reasonable explanation of the procedure to be followed, expected benefits, relative advantages, and the potential risks and discomforts of any experimental treatment. A patient has the right to revoke at any time consent to an experimental treatment.

History: **En. 38-1321 by Sec. 21, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1321; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 10, L. 1993.**

53-21-148. Right not to be subjected to hazardous treatment. Patients have a right not to be subjected to treatment procedures such as lobotomy, adversive reinforcement conditioning, or other unusual or hazardous treatment procedures without their express and informed consent after consultation with counsel, the legal guardian, if any, the friend of respondent appointed by the court, and any other interested party of the patient's choice. At least one of those consulted shall consent to the treatment, along with the patient's counsel. If there is no friend of respondent or if the friend of respondent appointed by the court is no longer available, then a friend of respondent who is in no way connected with the facility or with the department must be appointed before any enumerated treatment procedure can be employed. At least 10 days prior to the commencement of the extraordinary treatment program, the facility shall send notice of intent to employ extraordinary treatment procedures to the patient, the patient's next of kin, if known, the legal guardian, if any, the attorney who most recently represented the patient, and the friend of respondent appointed by the court.

History: **En. 38-1322 by Sec. 22, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1322; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1921, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-21-149. Conditions of treatment in community facility, program, or course of treatment. If the court orders a disposition under 53-21-127(3)(b), the court may order the following conditions for treatment in a community facility or program, or may order a course of treatment, including but not limited to:

(1) following a treatment plan developed pursuant to 53-21-150 that may include case management services, medication, short-term inpatient treatment, chemical dependency treatment, assertive community treatment, or a combination, as set forth by the designated community facility or program or the individual responsible for the management and supervision of the respondent's treatment; or

(2) specific residential or housing requirements that may include being under the care or custody of a relative or guardian.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2001.**

53-21-150. Treatment plan — provider choice. (1) Stabilizing treatment must be provided during the development of a treatment plan.

(2) If the court orders a treatment plan under this section as a condition of a commitment for treatment in a community facility, program, or course of treatment, the chief medical officer of the facility or program at which the respondent has been ordered to receive outpatient treatment and at which the respondent is treated as an outpatient or the chief medical officer's designee shall submit a treatment plan, including any outpatient treatment recommendations that the respondent is required to follow, to the clerk of district court as soon as practical. However, the plan must be submitted no later than 30 days after the respondent has been ordered to receive treatment as an outpatient.

(3) A treatment plan must be developed with the respondent and the friend of respondent or respondent's family, if family involvement is determined by the court in consultation with the mental health professional to be in the best interests of the respondent.

(4) The clerk of district court shall send a copy of the proposed treatment plan to the court, to the respondent, to the friend of respondent, and to the respondent's attorney of record, who may relay the respondent's objections to the treatment plan, if any, and provide alternative treatment recommendations to the court.

(5) The court may accept the treatment plan or require a revised treatment plan that is approved by a mental health professional.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 2001.

53-21-151. Notification of noncompliance as condition for treatment plan — response. (1) If the respondent has been ordered to follow a treatment plan and the respondent does not substantially comply with the treatment plan developed pursuant to the order for treatment pursuant to a commitment to a community facility or program or course of treatment, the chief medical officer or designee shall promptly notify the court upon becoming aware of substantial noncompliance that is likely to result in at least one of the conditions in 53-21-126(1) and shall provide supporting documentation.

(2) The court may take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the court's outpatient treatment order, including but not limited to the following:

(a) directing that the friend of respondent remind the respondent of the respondent's treatment obligations and attempt to persuade the noncompliant respondent to comply with the treatment plan;

(b) presenting the respondent to the mental health facility or program for treatment, including administration of medication pursuant to 53-21-127(6); or

(c) directing the treating provider to work with the respondent to bring about compliance with the treatment plan.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 342, L. 2001.

53-21-152. Department funding responsibility. The department shall develop a separate funding category and procedure for payment for services that are court-ordered for a commitment to a community facility or program or course of treatment. However, nothing in this chapter obligates the department to pay for services ordered under 53-21-127 unless the respondent is eligible for mental health services under the public mental health system funded by the department, the service is one that the department has included in its mental health program, and the department determines that the mental health service is medically necessary for the respondent.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 342, L. 2001.

53-21-153. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 533, L. 2001.

53-21-154 through 53-21-160 reserved.

53-21-161. Qualifications of professional persons. In every mental health facility to which a person is admitted pursuant to this part:

(1) each professional person and other staff member employed by the facility shall meet all certification requirements promulgated by the department;

(2) all nonprofessional staff members who have not had prior clinical experience in a mental institution shall have substantial orientation training;

(3) staff members on all levels shall have regularly scheduled inservice training;

(4) each nonprofessional staff member shall be under the direct supervision of a professional person.

History: **En. 38-1323 by Sec. 23, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1323.**

Cross-References

Certification of professional persons, 53-21-106.

53-21-162. Establishment of patient treatment plan — patient's rights. (1) Each patient admitted as an inpatient to a mental health facility must have a comprehensive physical and mental examination and review of behavioral status within 48 hours after admission to the mental health facility, except as provided in 53-21-1206.

(2) Each patient must have an individualized treatment plan. This plan must be developed by appropriate professional persons, including a psychiatrist, and must be implemented no later than 10 days after the patient's admission, except as provided in 53-21-1206. Each individualized treatment plan must contain:

(a) a statement of the nature of the specific problems and specific needs of the patient;

(b) a statement of the least restrictive treatment conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of hospitalization;

(c) a description of treatment goals, with a projected timetable for their attainment;

(d) a statement and rationale for the plan of treatment for achieving these goals;

(e) a specification of staff responsibility for attaining each treatment goal;

(f) criteria for release to less restrictive treatment conditions; and

(g) a notation of any therapeutic tasks and labor to be performed by the patient.

(3) Overall development, implementation, and supervision of the treatment plan must be assigned to an appropriate professional person.

(4) The inpatient mental health facility shall periodically reevaluate the patient and revise the individualized treatment plan based on changes in the patient's condition. At a minimum, the treatment plan must be reviewed:

(a) at the time of any transfer within the facility;

(b) at the time of discharge;

(c) upon any major change in the patient's condition;

(d) at the conclusion of the initial estimated length of stay and subsequent estimated lengths of stay;

(e) no less than every 90 days; and

(f) at each of the times specified in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(e), by a treatment team that includes at least one professional person who is not primarily responsible for the patient's treatment plan.

(5) A patient has the right:

(a) to ongoing participation, in a manner appropriate to the patient's capabilities, in the planning of mental health services to be provided and in the revision of the plan;

(b) to a reasonable explanation of the following, in terms and language appropriate to the patient's condition and ability to understand:

(i) the patient's general mental condition and, if given a physical examination, the patient's physical condition;

(ii) the objectives of treatment;

(iii) the nature and significant possible adverse effects of recommended treatments;

(iv) the reasons why a particular treatment is considered appropriate;

(v) the reasons why access to certain visitors may not be appropriate; and

(vi) any appropriate and available alternative treatments, services, or providers of mental health services; and

(c) not to receive treatment established pursuant to the treatment plan in the absence of the patient's informed, voluntary, and written consent to the treatment, except treatment:

(i) during an emergency situation if the treatment is pursuant to or documented contemporaneously by the written order of a responsible mental health professional; or

(ii) permitted under the applicable law in the case of a person committed to a facility by a court.

(6) In the case of a patient who lacks the capacity to exercise the right to consent to treatment described in subsection (5)(c), the right must be exercised on behalf of the patient by a guardian appointed pursuant to the provisions of Title 72, chapter 5.

(7) The department shall develop procedures for initiating limited guardianship proceedings in the case of a patient who appears to lack the capacity to exercise the right to consent described in subsection (5)(c).

History: En. 38-1324 by Sec. 24, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1324; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 2009.

53-21-163. Examination following commitment. Within 30 days after a patient is committed to a mental health facility, the professional person in charge of the facility or the professional person's appointed, professionally qualified agent shall reexamine the committed patient and shall determine whether the patient continues to require commitment to the facility and whether a treatment plan complying with this part has been implemented. If the patient no longer requires commitment to the facility in accordance with the standards for commitment, the patient must be released immediately without further order of the court unless the patient agrees to continue with treatment on a voluntary basis. If for sound professional reasons a treatment plan has not been implemented, this fact must be reported immediately to the professional person in charge of the facility, the director of the department, the mental disabilities board of visitors, and the patient's counsel.

History: En. 38-1325 by Sec. 25, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1325; amd. Sec. 1922, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2017.

53-21-164. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986.

History: En. 38-1327 by Sec. 27, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1327; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 363, L. 1983.

53-21-165. Records to be maintained. Complete patient records must be kept by the mental health facility for the length of time required by rules established by the department. All records kept by the mental health facility must be available to any person authorized by the patient in writing to receive these records and upon approval of the authorization by the board. The records must also be made available to any attorney charged with representing the patient or any professional person charged with evaluating or treating the patient. These records must include:

(1) identification data, including the patient's legal status;

(2) a patient history, including but not limited to:

(a) family data, educational background, and employment record;

(b) prior medical history, both physical and mental, including prior hospitalization;

(3) the chief complaints of the patient and the chief complaints of others regarding the patient;

(4) an evaluation that notes the onset of illness, the circumstances leading to admission, attitudes, behavior, estimate of intellectual functioning, memory functioning, orientation, and an inventory of the patient's assets in descriptive rather than interpretative fashion;

(5) a summary of each physical examination that describes the results of the examination;

(6) a copy of the individual treatment plan and any modifications to the plan;

(7) a detailed summary of the findings made by the reviewing professional person after each periodic review of the treatment plan, required under 53-21-162(4), that analyzes the successes and failures of the treatment program and includes recommendations for appropriate modification of the treatment plan;

(8) a copy of the individualized discharge plan and any modifications to the plan and a summary of the steps that have been taken to implement that plan;

(9) a medication history and status that includes the signed orders of the prescribing physician or advanced practice registered nurse. The staff person administering the medication shall indicate by signature that orders have been carried out.

(10) a summary of each significant contact by a professional person with the patient;

(11) documentation of the implementation of the treatment plan;

(12) documentation of all treatment provided to the patient;

(13) chronological documentation of the patient's clinical course;

(14) descriptions of any changes in the patient's condition;

(15) a signed order by a professional person for any restrictions on visitations and communications;

(16) a signed order by a professional person for any physical restraints and isolation;

(17) a detailed summary of any extraordinary incident in the facility involving the patient, to be entered by a staff member noting that the staff member has personal knowledge of the incident or specifying any other source of information. The summary of the incident must be initialed within 24 hours by a professional person.

(18) a summary by the professional person in charge of the facility or by an appointed agent of the determination made after the 30-day review provided for in 53-21-163.

History: En. 38-1328 by Sec. 28, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1328; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 491, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 310, L. 2001.

53-21-166. Records to be confidential — exceptions. All information obtained and records prepared in the course of providing any services under this part to individuals under any provision of this part are confidential and privileged matter and must remain confidential and privileged after the individual is discharged from the facility. Except as provided in Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, information and records may be disclosed only:

(1) in communications between qualified professionals in the provision of services or appropriate referrals;

(2) when the recipient of services designates persons to whom information or records may be released or if a recipient of services is a ward and the recipient's guardian or conservator designates in writing persons to whom records or information may be disclosed. However, this section may not be construed to compel a physician, psychologist, social worker, nurse, attorney, or other professional person to reveal information that has been given to the physician, psychologist, social worker, nurse, attorney, or other professional person in confidence by members of a patient's family.

(3) to the extent necessary to make claims on behalf of a recipient of aid, insurance, or medical assistance to which a recipient may be entitled;

(4) for research if the department has promulgated rules for the conduct of research. Rules must include but are not limited to the requirement that all researchers shall sign an oath of confidentiality.

(5) to the courts as necessary for the administration of justice;

(6) to persons authorized by an order of court, after notice and opportunity for hearing to the person to whom the record or information pertains and the custodian of the record or information pursuant to the rules of civil procedure;

(7) to members of the mental disabilities board of visitors or their agents when necessary to perform their functions as set out in 53-21-104;

(8) to the state protection and advocacy program for individuals with mental illness when necessary to comply with 53-21-107(9); and

(9) to the mental health ombudsman when necessary to perform the ombudsman functions as provided in 2-15-210.

History: En. 38-1329 by Sec. 29, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1329; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 776, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 776, L. 2023. Amendment effective June 8, 2023.

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 776, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved June 8, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Uniform Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 5.

53-21-167. Patient labor. The following rules govern patient labor:

(1) A patient may not be required to perform labor that involves the operation and maintenance of a facility or for which the facility is under contract with an outside organization.

Privileges or release from the facility may not be conditioned upon the performance of labor covered by this provision. Patients may voluntarily engage in the labor if the labor is compensated in accordance with the minimum wage laws of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C 206, as amended.

(2) (a) Patients may be required to perform therapeutic tasks that do not involve the operation and maintenance of the facility if the specific task or any change in assignment is:

(i) an integrated part of the patient's treatment plan and approved as a therapeutic activity by a professional person responsible for supervising the patient's treatment; and

(ii) supervised by a staff member to oversee the therapeutic aspects of the activity.

(b) Patients may voluntarily engage in therapeutic labor for which the facility would otherwise have to pay an employee if the specific labor or any change in labor assignment is:

(i) an integrated part of the patient's treatment plan and approved as a therapeutic activity by a professional person responsible for supervising the patient's treatment;

(ii) supervised by a staff member to oversee the therapeutic aspects of the activity; and

(iii) compensated in accordance with the minimum wage laws of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 206, as amended.

(3) If any patient performs therapeutic labor that involves the operation and maintenance of a facility but due to physical or mental disability is unable to perform the labor as efficiently as a person not so physically or mentally disabled, then the patient may be compensated at a rate that bears the same approximate relation to the statutory minimum wage as the patient's ability to perform that particular job bears to the ability of a person not so afflicted.

(4) Patients may be required to perform tasks of a personal housekeeping nature, such as the making of one's own bed.

(5) Deductions or payments for care and other charges may not deprive a patient of a reasonable amount of the compensation received pursuant to this section for personal and incidental purchases and expenses.

History: En. 38-1318 by Sec. 18, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1318; amd. Sec. 1923, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-21-168. Statement of rights to be furnished and posted. Each patient shall promptly upon admission receive in language the patient understands a written statement of all of the patient's rights under this part, including the right to treatment, the right to the development of a treatment plan, the right to and the availability of legal counsel, and the rules for patient labor. In addition, a copy of the statement of rights must be posted in each ward.

History: En. 38-1331 by Sec. 31, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1331 amd. Sec. 1924, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-21-169. Protection and advocacy system — designation and authority. (1) A protection and advocacy system for individuals with a significant mental illness or emotional impairment is designated by the governor and may be administered in the state under the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 10801 through 10851. An eligible mental health protection and advocacy system under the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 10801 through 10851 must have as its primary goals:

(a) the protection and advocacy of the rights of mentally ill individuals who are defined in 42 U.S.C. 10802 as individuals with a significant mental illness or emotional impairment; and

(b) the investigation of incidents of abuse and neglect, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 10802, of mentally ill individuals.

(2) Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10801 and 10802, the protection and advocacy system may:

(a) investigate incidents of abuse and neglect of mentally ill individuals;

(b) pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of mentally ill individuals who are residents of the state and are receiving care or treatment in the state;

(c) have access to all mentally ill individuals and all facilities, wards, and living quarters as necessary to fulfill the goals described in subsection (1); and

(d) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10801 through 10851 and Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, have access to records, including:

(i) reports prepared by the staff of a mental health care and treatment facility;

(ii) reports prepared by an agency investigating reports of abuse, neglect, and injury occurring at a facility and that describe the incidents and the steps taken to investigate the reports;

(iii) reports provided by the director of the department pursuant to 53-21-107(9); and

(iv) discharge planning records.

(3) All information obtained under this section must be kept confidential pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10806.

(4) The protection and advocacy system described in this section is independent of any public or private agency that provides treatment or services to the mentally ill.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 776, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 776, L. 2023. Amendment effective June 8, 2023.

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 776, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved June 8, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

Cross-References

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors — composition — allocation, 2-15-211.

Powers and duties of Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors, 53-21-104.

53-21-170 through 53-21-179 reserved.

53-21-180. Discharge plan. Each patient admitted as an inpatient to a mental health facility must have an individualized discharge plan developed within 10 days after admission. The discharge plan must be updated as necessary. Each individualized discharge plan must contain:

(1) an anticipated discharge date;

(2) criteria for discharge;

(3) identification of the facility staff member responsible for discharge planning;

(4) identification of the community-based agency or individual who is assisting in arranging postdischarge services;

(5) referrals for financial assistance needed by the patient upon discharge; and

(6) other information necessary to ensure an appropriate discharge and adequate postdischarge services.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 293, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

53-21-181. Discharge during or at end of initial commitment period — patient's right to referral. (1) (a) At any time within the period of commitment provided for in 53-21-127, the patient may be discharged on the written order of the professional person in charge of the patient without further order of the court.

(b) If the patient is not discharged within the period of commitment and if the term is not extended as provided for in 53-21-128, a patient whose commitment was to a facility other than a category D assisted living facility must be discharged by the facility at the end of the period of commitment without further order of the court.

(c) A patient who was committed to a category D assisted living facility may be discharged from supervision by the court but may remain as a resident if the category D assisted living facility and the patient agree.

(2) Notice of the discharge must be filed with the court and the county attorney at least 5 days prior to the discharge. Failure to comply with the notice requirement may not delay the discharge of the patient.

(3) Upon being discharged, each patient has a right to be referred, as appropriate, to other providers of mental health services.

History: En. 38-1306 by Sec. 6, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1306(2); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 579, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 342, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 402, L. 2017.

53-21-182. Court-ordered release to alternative placement or treatment. At any time during the patient's commitment, the court may, on its own initiative or upon application of the professional person in charge of the patient, the patient, the patient's next of kin, the patient's attorney, a third party responsible for payment for the care of the patient, or the friend of respondent appointed by the court, order the patient to be placed in the care and custody of relatives or guardians or to be provided outpatient therapy or other appropriate placement or treatment.

History: En. 38-1306 by Sec. 6, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1306(5); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

53-21-183. Release conditioned on receipt of outpatient care. (1) When, in the opinion of the professional person in charge of a mental health facility providing involuntary treatment, the committed person can be appropriately served by outpatient care prior to the expiration of the period of commitment, then outpatient care may be required as a condition for early release for a period that, when added to the inpatient treatment period, except as provided in 53-21-198, may not exceed the period of commitment. If the mental health facility designated to provide outpatient care is other than the facility providing involuntary treatment, the designated outpatient facility shall agree in writing to assume the responsibility.

(2) The mental health facility designated to provide outpatient care or the professional person in charge of the patient's case may modify the conditions for continued release when the modification is in the best interest of the patient. This includes the authorization to transfer the patient to another mental health facility designated to provide outpatient care, if the transfer is in the best interest of the patient and the designated outpatient facility agrees in writing to assume responsibility. Notice of an intended transfer must be given to the professional person in charge of the mental health facility that provided the involuntary treatment.

(3) Notice in writing to the court that committed the patient for treatment and the county attorney who initiated the action must be provided by the professional person in charge of the patient at least 5 days prior to the patient's release from commitment or outpatient care. Failure to comply with the notice requirement may not delay the release of the patient from commitment or outpatient care.

(4) Sections 53-21-195 through 53-21-198 and this section do not apply to a temporary release, certified by the professional person in charge of the mental health facility, from the facility for the purposes of a home visit not exceeding 30 days.

History: En. 38-1308 by Sec. 8, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1308; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 547, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1925, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2017.

53-21-184. Patients for whom release and discharge provisions inapplicable. The release and discharge provisions of this part shall not apply to any patient held upon an order of court or judge in a proceeding arising out of a criminal act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 38-501.

Cross-References

Mental competency of accused, Title 46, ch. 14.

53-21-185. Care and treatment following release. The department and its agents have an affirmative duty to provide adequate transitional treatment and care for all patients released after a period of involuntary confinement. Transitional care and treatment possibilities include but are not limited to psychiatric day care, treatment in the home by a visiting therapist, nursing home or extended care, a halfway house, outpatient treatment, and treatment in the psychiatric ward of a general hospital.

History: En. 38-1326 by Sec. 26, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1326.

53-21-186. Support of patient conditionally released. When a mental health facility conditionally releases a patient committed to its care, it is not liable for the patient's support while conditionally released. Liability transfers to the legal guardian, parent, or person under whose care the patient is placed when conditionally released or to any other person legally liable for the patient's support. The local office of public assistance in the county where the patient resides or is found is responsible for providing relief and care for a conditionally released patient who is unable to be self-supporting or who is unable to secure support from the person under whose care the patient was placed on convalescent leave, like any other person in need of relief and care, under the public assistance laws.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 145, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 152, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-506; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

53-21-187. Clothing for patients discharged or conditionally released. A patient may not be discharged or conditionally released from a mental health facility without suitable clothing adapted to the season in which the patient is discharged.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 145, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 152, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 38-507; amd. Sec. 1926, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Clothing purchases, 18-4-133.

53-21-188. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 266, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-110; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 547, L. 1979.

53-21-189. Fact of evaluation or treatment not to be used for discrimination. No person who has received evaluation or treatment under any of the provisions of this part may be discriminated against because of that status. For purposes of this section, "discrimination" means giving any unfavorable weight to the fact of hospitalization or outpatient care and treatment unrelated to a person's present capacity to meet standards applicable to all persons.

History: En. 38-1313 by Sec. 13, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1313(part).

Cross-References

Freedom from discrimination, 49-1-102.

Illegal discrimination, Title 49, ch. 2.

53-21-190. Fact of evaluation or treatment not to be used in subsequent court proceeding — exception. The fact that a person has received evaluation and treatment, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, at a mental health facility may not be admitted into evidence in a subsequent proceeding for involuntary commitment or for the appointment of a guardian or conservator unless it is necessary to a determination of the present condition of the respondent or the prognosis for treatment in the present case and the judge determines that the need for the evidence outweighs the prejudicial effect of its admission.

History: En. 38-1313 by Sec. 13, Ch. 466, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 546, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 38-1313(part).

53-21-191 and 53-21-192 reserved.

53-21-193. Commitment to behavioral health inpatient facilities — preference — voluntary treatment. (1) If a respondent is committed to the state hospital under 53-21-127 or if a person in an emergency situation requires detention under 53-21-129 and a bed is available at a behavioral health inpatient facility, the professional person shall inform the county attorney who shall inform the person who is responsible for transporting the individual as to the appropriate facility to which the individual is to be transported for admission.

(2) If a respondent is committed to or an individual requires emergency detention in a behavioral health inpatient facility, the facility must be notified and the facility shall state that a bed is available and agree to accept transfer of the patient based on admission criteria before an individual may be transferred to the behavioral health inpatient facility under this section.

(3) A respondent who is committed to or an individual who is transferred to a behavioral health inpatient facility may be transferred to the state hospital for the remaining period of commitment in accordance with criteria established by the department by rule pursuant to 53-21-194. A court order for commitment or transfer must include the transfer authority, and all conditions contained in the court order apply after a transfer.

(4) The court may not order commitment of the respondent or transfer of an individual to a behavioral health inpatient facility under this part if a bed is not available or if the licensed capacity would be exceeded.

(5) If a bed is available, a behavioral health inpatient facility may admit a person for voluntary treatment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 116, L. 2007.

53-21-194. Department licensure of behavioral health inpatient facilities — rulemaking authority — transfer criteria. (1) The department may license behavioral health inpatient facilities to provide inpatient psychiatric care to persons involuntarily committed or detained under this title or to persons seeking treatment voluntarily.

(2) The department shall adopt rules:

(a) governing the qualifications for licensure of behavioral health inpatient facilities; and

(b) establishing criteria pursuant to subsection (4) for admission to a behavioral health inpatient facility or transfer of a patient from a behavioral health inpatient facility to the state hospital.

(3) The rules for licensure must provide standards for the protection of the health and safety of persons committed to or detained in a behavioral health inpatient facility, including:

(a) requirements for medical stability;

(b) maximum length of stay;

(c) staffing levels and qualifications;

(d) building code classifications for occupancy; and

(e) security.

(4) The criteria for admission or transfer of an individual must reflect:

(a) individualized consideration of the patient's treatment needs and the safety of the public, including the prospects for the patient's successful transition to community care within the current period of commitment;

(b) the appropriateness of specialized programs or facilities at the state hospital; and

(c) the recommendations of the individual's treating professionals or state hospital staff.

(5) The department shall provide notice to the district courts and professional persons of the designation of any mental health facility as a behavioral health inpatient facility, the facility's capacity, and the criteria for admission and transfer.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 116, L. 2007.

53-21-195. Rehospitalization of patient conditionally released from inpatient treatment facilities — petition. (1) A proceeding for the rehospitalization of a patient conditionally released from an inpatient mental health facility pursuant to 53-21-182 or 53-21-183 is commenced by the filing of a written petition in any district court by the county attorney, the professional person in charge of the patient's case, or the patient's next of kin. Upon the filing of a petition under this subsection, the clerk of court shall notify each district court that committed the patient for the period of the patient's present hospitalization under 53-21-127 or 53-21-128 and request that the file of the earlier proceeding or proceedings be forwarded to the clerk. The file or files must be promptly forwarded.

(2) The patient has the rights set forth in 53-21-115 in a proceeding under this section.

(3) The petition must state:

(a) the patient's name and last-known address;

(b) the name and address of the patient's spouse, next of kin, attorney, or the friend of respondent appointed by the court, if any and if this information is reasonably ascertainable;

(c) that the patient has been determined by the district court to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment within the meaning of this part and is presently under a valid order of commitment pursuant to 53-21-127 or 53-21-128;

(d) a simple and precise statement of the facts showing that the patient has violated a condition of the release, that the violation has caused a deterioration of the patient's mental disorder, and that as a result of this deterioration, the patient can no longer be appropriately served by outpatient care; and

(e) a statement of the rights of the respondent, including those set forth in 53-21-115, which must be in conspicuous print and identified by a suitable heading.

(4) The petition must be filed with the clerk of court, who shall immediately notify the judge.

(5) The judge shall issue notice of the time and place of the hearing on the petition. The hearing must be held no more than 5 days after the date that the petition is filed, including weekends and holidays, unless the fifth day falls upon a weekend or holiday or unless additional time is requested by the patient. Further, the judge shall ensure that the notice and copy of the petition are immediately hand-delivered to the patient, to the patient's friend of respondent, if any, and to the patient's counsel.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 541, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

53-21-196. Detention of conditionally released patient pending hearing. The court may not order detention of the conditionally released patient pending the hearing, except as permitted under 53-21-124.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 541, L. 1985.

53-21-197. Hearing on rehospitalization petition — revocation of conditional release. (1) The court may order that the patient's conditional release status be revoked and that the patient be returned to the mental health facility from which the patient was conditionally released or be sent to another appropriate inpatient mental health facility if, after a hearing, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

(a) the conditionally released patient has been determined by the district court to be suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment and is presently under a valid order of commitment pursuant to 53-21-127 or 53-21-128; and

(b) the conditionally released patient has violated a condition of the release, that the violation has caused a deterioration of the patient's mental condition, and that as a result of this deterioration, the patient can no longer be appropriately served by outpatient care.

(2) A revocation of the patient's conditional release status under subsection (1) must be based on the testimony of the professional person responsible for the patient's case.

(3) If the court revokes the patient's conditional release status pursuant to subsection (1), a treatment plan must be updated or a new plan prepared for the patient as required by and within the time set forth in 53-21-162.

(4) Except as provided in 53-21-198, an order revoking the patient's conditional release status may not order hospitalization or impose other conditions of release that extend beyond the expiration date of the order committing the patient under 53-21-127 or 53-21-128.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 541, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

53-21-198. Extension of conditions of release — hearing. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1)(b), conditions of release may be extended by the district court beyond the expiration date of the order committing the patient under 53-21-127 or 53-21-128, but in no case for longer than 2 years beyond that date, upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that:

(i) continuation of the conditions of release is necessary to prevent the deterioration of the patient's mental disorder; and

(ii) the deterioration will predictably result in the necessity of further inpatient care for the patient. Predictability may be established by the patient's medical history.

(b) The 2-year limit beyond the expiration date of a commitment order under 53-21-127 does not apply to a patient who was diverted from the Montana state hospital or the Montana mental health nursing care center to a category D assisted living facility, subject to completion of the evaluation required under subsection (2).

(2) Not less than 2 calendar weeks prior to the end of the period of detention ordered under 53-21-127 or 53-21-128 or the period of extension ordered under subsection (5) of this section, the professional person responsible for the patient's case may petition the court for extension of the conditions of release. The petition must be accompanied by a written report and evaluation of the patient's mental and physical condition. The report must describe any tests and evaluation devices that have been employed in evaluating the patient, the course of treatment that has been undertaken for the patient, and the future course of treatment anticipated by the professional person.

(3) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall give written notice of the filing of the petition to the patient, the patient's next of kin, if reasonably available, the friend of respondent appointed by the court, if any, and the patient's counsel. If any person notified requests a hearing prior to the end of the period of detention ordered under 53-21-127 or 53-21-128, the court shall immediately set a time and place for a hearing on a date not more than 10 days from the receipt of the request and notify the same people, including the professional person in charge of the patient. If a hearing is not requested, the court shall enter an order extending the conditions of release for a period not to exceed 6 months.

(4) Procedure on the petition for extension is the same in all respects as the procedure for hearing on a rehospitalization petition pursuant to 53-21-197. However, in an extension proceeding, the finding required is that set forth in subsection (1) of this section. The hearing must be held in the district court for the county in which the patient is residing. Court costs and witness fees, if any, must be paid by the county that paid the same costs in the initial commitment proceeding.

(5) If upon the hearing the court finds that the showing required by subsection (1) has not been made, the conditions of release may not be extended, except as provided in subsection (1)(b). If the court finds that the required showing has been made, the court may extend the

conditions of release as recommended by the professional person. In its order, the court shall describe what alternatives for treatment of the patient are available, what alternatives were investigated, and why the investigated alternatives were not considered suitable. The court may not order continuation of an alternative that does not include a comprehensive, individualized plan of treatment for the patient, as required by 53-21-162. A court order for the continuation of an alternative must include a specific finding that a comprehensive, individualized plan of treatment exists.

(6) Further extensions may be obtained under the same procedure described in this section. However, the patient's custody may not be affected for more than 1 year without a renewal of the extension under the procedures set forth in this section, including a hearing and a statement of the findings required by subsection (5). Extensions under this subsection may not extend the 2-year extension limitation provided in subsection (1), subject to the exception in subsection (1)(b).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 541, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 402, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Cost of professional examination — payment by county where respondent resides, 53-21-118.

53-21-199. Option for diversion from involuntary commitment to Montana state hospital. (1) Subject to subsection (3), a person with a mental disorder who is detained under 53-21-120(4) may, upon meeting the requirements in 50-5-226(5), request diversion to a category D assisted living facility.

(2) If a court, after obtaining the results of an examination as provided in 53-21-123, finds that a short-term inpatient treatment is inappropriate for a person who otherwise is eligible for involuntary commitment to the Montana state hospital, the court may initiate the process necessary to determine eligibility for residency in a category D assisted living facility.

(3) For a person to be eligible for diversion from the Montana state hospital to a category D assisted living facility, a court determination and an examination under 53-21-123 must indicate that the person:

(a) is not suffering acute psychosis;

(b) is experiencing behavioral patterns that may make the person a danger to self or others;

(c) is dependent on assistance for two or more activities of daily living; and

(d) is more likely to benefit from being in a category D assisted living facility than in the Montana mental health nursing care center or the Montana state hospital.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 2017; Sec. 50-5-224, MCA 2019; redes. 53-21-199 by Code Commissioner, 2019.

Part 2
Community Mental Health Centers
(Repealed)

53-21-201. Repealed. Secs. 16(2), 19(2), Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 80-2801 by Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 168, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 492, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-21-202. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 80-2802 by Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2802; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 493, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 171, L. 1997.

53-21-203. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 80-2803 by Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2803; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1985.

53-21-204. Repealed. Secs. 16(2), 19(2), Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 20-2804 by Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2804; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 806, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 494, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 58, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

53-21-205. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 80-2805 by Sec. 5, Ch. 509, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2805.

53-21-206. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. 80-2806 by Sec. 6, Ch. 509, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 38, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2806; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 590, L. 1995.

53-21-207 through 53-21-210 reserved.

53-21-211. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 619, L. 1989.

53-21-212. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 619, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 312, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 170, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 495, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-21-213. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 619, L. 1989.

53-21-214. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 619, L. 1989.

Part 3
Warm Springs State Hospital
(Repealed)

53-21-301. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 361, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 67, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2401.

53-21-302. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 361, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 68, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2402.

Part 4
Community-Based Nursing Homes
Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center

53-21-401. Legislative intent. (1) It is the intent of the legislature that geriatric patients at the Montana state hospital and geriatric residents of the state who may be at risk of commitment to the Montana state hospital and who do not need intensive psychiatric care receive care and treatment in nursing homes located in community settings.

(2) It is the further intent of the legislature that nursing homes providing such care and treatment be located regionally so that the residents may be near their homes and families.

(3) It is the further intent of the legislature that these nursing homes must be located in communities with:

(a) a labor pool large enough to ensure adequate and qualified staffing;

(b) sufficient medical facilities and medical professionals to provide necessary medical services; and

(c) if possible, an institution or institutions of higher learning with educational programs in disciplines with relevance to the problems of aging.

(4) It is the further intent of the legislature to:

(a) end the involuntary commitment of individuals who have a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury when those individuals meet only the commitment criteria outlined in 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B); and

(b) develop, based on consultation and collaboration between providers and the department, services in the community for those individuals.

History: En. 80-2413 by Sec. 1, Ch. 523, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2413; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 777, L. 2023. Amendment effective June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

53-21-402. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services. The department:

(1) shall contract with nonprofit corporations that demonstrate expertise in and the capability of providing rehabilitative and restorative programs for aged citizens for the operation and management of nursing homes established under this part;

(2) shall ensure that nursing homes established and operated under this part are in compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations;

(3) shall adopt rules for staffing requirements and the admission of patients;

(4) shall provide that first priority for admission to nursing homes established under this part be given to:

(a) Montana state hospital patients who are geriatric; and

(b) people with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury who:

(i) have been involuntarily committed to the Montana state hospital but no longer need the intensive treatment provided by the hospital; or

(ii) are substantially unable to provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, health, or safety;

(5) shall provide members of the transition review committee provided for in 53-21-404 with the information necessary to carry out the committee's duties;

(6) shall implement, in consultation and collaboration with the transition review committee, a plan to prepare for the end of involuntary commitment of many individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury and

(7) may accept grants, gifts, bequests, and contributions in money or property or any other form from individuals, corporations, associations, or federal, state, and local government agencies for the purposes of establishing and operating nursing homes under this part." *(Subsections (5) and (6) terminate June 30, 2025—sec. 13, Ch. 777, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. 80-2414 by Sec. 4, Ch. 523, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2414; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 496, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 777, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 777, L. 2023. Amendment effective June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto, and subsections (5) and (6) terminate June 30, 2025.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

53-21-403. Placement of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury — direction to department. To accomplish the intent of 53-21-401(4), the legislature directs the department to:

(1) by June 30, 2025, develop and implement a plan to ensure the availability of community-based services for individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury who might otherwise be at risk of involuntary commitment;

(2) collaborate with the transition review committee provided for in 53-21-404 to identify the community-based services needed to ensure that individuals with those diagnoses can be safely and effectively served in the community;

(3) transfer funds as authorized by 17-7-139, 53-21-406, and federal laws and regulations to develop the services needed in the community; and

(4) by June 30, 2025, transition out of the Montana state hospital and into community services the Montana state hospital patients whose primary diagnosis involves Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury and who meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B). As part of this transition, the legislature intends for the department to actively pursue the timely discharge of those Montana state hospital patients.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 777, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

53-21-404. *(Temporary)* **Transition review committee — membership — meetings — reimbursement.** (1) There is a transition review committee to monitor the need for and progress in developing community-based services for individuals who have been or are at risk of being involuntarily committed to the Montana state hospital and who have a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury.

(2) The committee must consist of:

(a) four legislators appointed as provided in subsection (4); and

(b) seven members appointed by the governor or the governor's designee as follows:

(i) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing killed nursing facilities and assisted living facilities;

(ii) one representative of the state protection and advocacy system for individuals with ental illness authorized under 42 U.S.C. 10803;

(iii) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing ndividuals with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia;

(iv) one representative of a statewide association whose primary purpose is representing ndividuals with traumatic brain injury;

(v) one physician with experience in geriatric psychiatry;

(vi) one family member or guardian of an individual who is or has, within the previous 5 ears, been committed to the Montana state hospital and whose diagnosis included Alzheimer's isease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury; and

(vii) one representative of the department of public health and human services.

(3) Appointments must be made no later than May 15, 2023.

(4) (a) Legislative members of the committee must, in consultation with the minority arty, be appointed as provided in this subsection (4).

(b) (i) The committee on committees shall appoint two members of the Montana senate, ne from the majority party and one from the minority party.

(ii) The speaker of the house shall appoint two members of the Montana house, one from he majority party and one from the minority party.

(c) Two of the appointees must have served on the section b joint appropriations ubcommittee, and two of the appointees must have been members of the house human services ommittee or senate public health, welfare, and safety committee.

(d) Legislative appointees to the committee may continue to serve on the committee if they re not members of the 69th legislature.

(5) A vacancy on the committee must be filled in the same manner as the original ppointment.

(6) The committee shall elect a presiding officer and vice presiding officer from among the egislative members of the committee.

(7) The committee shall meet quarterly during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ust be disbanded no later than June 30, 2025.

(8) (a) A legislative member of the committee is entitled to salary and expenses as provided n 5-2-302.

(b) A nonlegislative member of the committee is entitled to reimbursement for travel xpenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

(9) The legislative services division shall provide staff support to the committee. *Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 13, Ch. 777, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

ompiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. pproved June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

Termination: Section 13, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided: "[Sections 4(5), 4(6), 6, and 7] [53-21-402(5) and (6), 3-21-404, and 53-21-405] terminate June 30, 2025."

53-21-405. *(Temporary)* **Transition review committee duties — reporting equirement.** (1) The transition review committee shall:

(a) hear regular reports from the department and, as necessary, the office of budget and rogram planning on:

(i) the number of Montana state hospital patients with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's isease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury;

(ii) efforts the department is making to find community placements for individuals with hose diagnoses, including any barriers to discharging the individuals from the Montana state ospital and the steps being taken to alleviate the barriers; and

(iii) activities being taken to identify and develop community-based services and to ransition into those services individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury who meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B);

(b) hear reports from providers on matters related to serving individuals with Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury, including but not limited to information on the resources needed for serving the individuals in the community and recommendations for meeting those needs;

(c) review, as needed, efforts undertaken in other states to reduce the involuntary commitment of individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury and to identify practices in those states that may assist Montana in ending involuntary commitment of individuals with those diagnoses;

(d) advise the department of problems it is observing with the transition process; and

(e) make recommendations to the department and the legislature on potential solutions for alleviating problems encountered in the transition process.

(2) The department reports on Montana state hospital patients required under subsection (1)(a)(i) must include, for each period covered by the report:

(a) the number of those patients admitted to the hospital;

(b) the number currently receiving treatment; and

(c) the number discharged.

(3) The committee shall report regularly to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee and at least once to the house human services committee and the senate public health, welfare, and safety committee of the 69th legislature on:

(a) its review of the department's efforts and progress in:

(i) transitioning individuals from the Montana state hospital; and

(ii) developing the community-based services needed to prepare for the scheduled discontinuance on July 1, 2025, of the use of involuntary commitments for individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury who meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B); and

(b) any recommendations for additional legislation needed to accomplish the purposes of 53-21-403 through 53-21-407. *(Terminates June 30, 2025—sec. 13, Ch. 777, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

Termination: Section 13, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided: "[Sections 4(5), 4(6), 6, and 7] [53-21-402(5) and (6), 53-21-404, and 53-21-405] terminate June 30, 2025."

53-21-406. Certain transfers of funds authorized. Funds appropriated to the department for the operation of the Montana state hospital may be used for carrying out the purposes of 53-21-403 if:

(1) Montana state hospital patients are transferred to a community-based nursing home or other community setting that results in lower expenditures than allowed by legislative appropriation; and

(2) a transfer of appropriations between programs is:

(a) made as provided in 17-7-139; and

(b) approved by the governor.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

53-21-407. Limitation on expenditures. For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, the department may spend up to $9 million a year to place individuals with a primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or traumatic brain injury in a community setting rather than at the Montana state hospital when those individuals meet only the commitment criteria of 53-21-126(1)(a) or (1)(d)(i)(B).

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 777, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 12, Ch. 777, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved June 9, 2023, the date that the house and senate overrode the governor's veto.

53-21-408 through 53-21-410 reserved.

53-21-411. Location and function of Montana mental health nursing care center. (1) The institution located at Lewistown is the Montana mental health nursing care center. The primary function of the center is the care and treatment of persons with mental disorders who require nursing care. Priority must be given to patients referred from the Montana state hospital.

(2) Appropriate admissions to the Montana mental health nursing care center are persons who are unable to maintain themselves in their homes or communities due to a mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102, but who do not require the intensity of treatment available at the Montana state hospital.

(3) The department of public health and human services may adopt rules concerning specific admission criteria, treatment, and discharge procedures consistent with 53-21-414 and subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 71, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 120, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 466, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1983; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 1983; amd. Secs. 23, 27, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 497, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-21-412. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 94, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 72, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2502; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991.**

53-21-413. Discharge and transfer of patients. (1) The superintendent of the Montana mental health nursing care center may authorize the discharge of a patient residing at the center according to rules adopted by the department of public health and human services. Rules adopted by the department governing discharge from the center must be consistent with 53-21-111, 53-21-181, and 53-21-183.

(2) A patient in the center who requires the intensity of treatment available at the Montana state hospital may be transferred to the Montana state hospital if the patient is subject to an involuntary commitment. The department shall notify the patient, the patient's next of kin, and the mental disabilities board of visitors at least 15 days before the transfer. If a person or entity notified by the department objects to the transfer, the person or entity may petition the district court for a hearing to review whether the transfer is necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the patient. The notice required by this subsection must include notification of the right to petition the district court pursuant to this subsection. Notice pursuant to this subsection does not preclude transfer pursuant to 53-21-130.

History: **En. Sec. 73, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2503; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 499, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-21-414. Admissions to mental health nursing care center. (1) The Montana mental health nursing care center may admit patients on a voluntary basis according to admission criteria and procedures established in administrative rules and by involuntary commitment pursuant to 53-21-127(3)(c).

(2) A patient involuntarily committed to the Montana state hospital may be transferred by the department of public health and human services to the Montana mental health nursing care center if the patient meets the admission criteria of the center. The department shall notify the patient, the patient's next of kin, and the mental disabilities board of visitors at least 15 days before the transfer. If a person or entity notified by the department objects to the transfer, the person or entity may petition the district court for a hearing to review whether the transfer is necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the patient. The notice required by this subsection must include notification of the right to petition the district court pursuant to this subsection. Section 53-21-128 applies to extensions of involuntary commitment of patients to the center.

(3) Except as provided in 53-21-413(2) and subsection (2) of this section, patients involuntarily transferred to the center have the rights provided in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 94, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 554, L. 2003.**

Part 5
Youth Treatment

Part Cross-References
Mentally ill — Montana State Hospital, 53-21-601.

53-21-501. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 612, L. 1985.

53-21-502. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 363, L. 1983.

53-21-503 and 53-21-504 reserved.

53-21-505. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 14, Sp. L. June 1986.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 612, L. 1985.

53-21-506. No commitment to Montana state hospital. An individual who is under 18 years of age may not be voluntarily admitted or committed by a court to the Montana state hospital unless an information has been filed in district court pursuant to 41-5-206.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 363, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 361, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 612, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 549, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 550, L. 1997.

53-21-507. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 612, L. 1985.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 363, L. 1983.

53-21-508. Monitoring of children's mental health outcomes — report. (1) Each September and March, the department shall measure factors, specific to a point in time, for children receiving targeted case management services in the state-funded children's mental health system to determine the effect of the services on the likelihood the children will remain at home, in school, and out of trouble.

(2) The department shall monitor the following factors to determine whether children receiving targeted case management services are able to remain at home:

(a) the number of children placed in out-of-home mental health treatment, including the level and type of care and whether the treatment is provided in state or out of state; and

(b) the number of children placed in a foster care setting, including kinship care, or a correctional setting.

(3) The department shall monitor the following factors related to the school success of a child receiving targeted case management services:

(a) the number of children enrolled in and attending school; and

(b) the number of children who advanced to the next grade level from the previous school year.

(4) The department shall monitor the following additional factors for children receiving targeted case management services:

(a) the number of children receiving treatment for substance use;

(b) the number of children screened for substance use disorders by the current case management provider;

(c) the number of children involved, formally or informally, with youth court; and

(d) the number of children in care or treatment related to suicide risk.

(5) The department shall report annually to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on the information required under this section.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Part 6
Montana State Hospital

53-21-601. Location and primary function of hospital. (1) The facility providing mental health care services at Warm Springs, Montana, is the Montana state hospital and as its primary function provides care and treatment of mentally ill persons.

(2) (a) The Montana state hospital is a mental health facility, as defined in 53-21-102, of the department of public health and human services for the care and treatment of mentally ill persons.

(b) The role of the Montana state hospital is to provide intensive inpatient psychiatric ervices, including those services necessary for transition to community care, as components n a comprehensive continuum of publicly and privately provided programs that emphasize reatment in the least restrictive environment.

(c) The mission of the Montana state hospital is to stabilize persons with severe mental llness and to return them to the community as soon as possible if adequate community-based upport services are available.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to manage the state hospital patient population in manner that will ensure emergency access to services, protect public and individual safety, rovide active treatment, implement effective discharge planning, and ensure access to ppropriate community-based services.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 320, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1974; R.C.M. 947, 80-1701; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 361, L. 1983; Sec. 53-6-301, MCA 1989; redes. 53-21-601 by Code Commissioner, 991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 500, h. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1999.

53-21-602. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 579, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1703; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 61, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 151, L. 1985; Sec. 53-6-303, MCA 1989; redes. 53-21-602 by Code Commissioner, 991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991.

53-21-603. Chemical dependency treatment center. (1) There is a Montana chemical ependency treatment center. The Montana chemical dependency treatment center is the pproved public treatment facility as defined in 53-24-103.

(2) The Montana chemical dependency treatment center shall provide detoxification, valuation, treatment, referral, and rehabilitation to persons in Montana who are referred for npatient treatment of alcoholism or other chemical dependency.

History: En. Sec. 70, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 320, L. 1967; Sec. 80-2404, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and edes. 80-1705 by Sec. 2, Ch. 90, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1705; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 61, L. 1983; Sec. 53-6-304, MCA 1989; redes. 53-21-603 by Code Commissioner, 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 579, L. 993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1995.

ross-References

Alcoholism and drug dependence, Title 53, ch. 24.

53-21-604. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 388, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 2009.

53-21-605. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 388, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 388, L. 2009.

Part 7
Mental Health Managed Care

53-21-701. Mental health managed care allowed — contract. (1) The department of ublic health and human services may contract with one or more persons for the management f comprehensive mental health services for medicaid recipients, as provided in 53-6-116, and or persons in households not eligible for medicaid with family income that does not exceed 60% of the federal poverty threshold or that does not exceed a lesser amount determined in he discretion of the department. The department shall determine whether or not a potential ontractor that will serve medicaid enrollees is a managed health care entity, as defined in 3-6-702, prior to entering into a contract and shall ensure that each contractor that qualifies as managed health care entity complies with the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, part 7, for the edicaid portion of the program.

(2) A managed care system is a program organized to serve the mental health needs of ecipients in an efficient and cost-effective manner by managing the receipt of comprehensive ental health care and services for a geographical or otherwise defined population of recipients hrough appropriate health care professionals. The management of mental health care ervices must provide for services in the most cost-effective manner through coordination and anagement of the appropriate level of care and appropriate level of services.

(3) The department may enter into one or more contracts with a managed health care ntity for the administration or delivery of mental health services. These contracts may be based

upon a fixed monetary amount or a capitated amount for each individual, and a contractor may assume all or a part of the financial risk of providing and making payment for services to a set population of eligible individuals if the contractor has complied with Title 33, chapter 31, and Title 53, chapter 6, part 7. The department may require the participation of recipients in managed care systems based upon geographical, financial, medical, or other factors that the department may determine are relevant to the development and efficient operation of the managed care systems. Any contract for delivery of mental health care services that includes hospitalization or physician services, or both, must include a provision that, prior to final award of a contract, a successful bidder that serves adults shall enter into an agreement regarding the Montana state hospital and the Montana mental health nursing care center that is consistent with 53-1-402, 53-1-413, and 90-7-312 and that includes financial incentives for the development and use of community-based services, rather than the use of the state institutional services.

(4) The department shall formally evaluate contract performance with regard to specific outcome measures. The department shall explicitly identify performance and outcome measures that contractors are required to achieve in order to comply with contract requirements and to continue the contract. The contract must provide for progressive intermediate sanctions that may be imposed for nonperformance. The contract performance evaluation must include a section concerning contract enforcement, including any sanctions imposed along with the rationale for not imposing a sanction when the imposition is authorized. The evaluation must be performed at least annually.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 351, L. 2011.

53-21-702. Mental health care system — eligibility — services — advisory council. (1) The department of public health and human services shall develop a delivery system of mental health care from providers or other entities that are able to provide administration or delivery of mental health services. The public mental health care system shall:

(a) include specific outcome and performance measures for the administration or delivery of a continuum of mental health services;

(b) provide for local advisory councils that shall report to and meet on a regular basis with the advisory council provided for in subsection (4);

(c) provide level-of-care appeals that are understandable and accessible; and

(d) provide a system for tracking children who need mental health services that are provided under substantive interagency agreements between state agencies responsible for addictive and mental disorders, foster care, children with developmental disabilities, special education, and juvenile corrections.

(2) The department may establish resource and income standards of eligibility for mental health services that are more liberal than the resource and income standards of eligibility for physical health services. The standards of eligibility for mental health services may provide for eligibility for households not eligible for medicaid with family income that does not exceed 160% of the federal poverty threshold or that does not exceed a lesser amount determined at the discretion of the department. The department may by rule specify under what circumstances deductions for medical expenses should be used to reduce countable family income in determining eligibility. The department may also adopt rules establishing fees, premiums, or copayments to be charged recipients for services. The fees, premiums, or copayments may vary according to family income.

(3) The department shall establish the amount, scope, and duration of services to be provided under the program. Services for nonmedicaid-eligible individuals may be more limited than those services provided to medicaid-eligible individuals. Services to nonmedicaid-eligible individuals may include a pharmacy benefit.

(4) (a) The department shall form an advisory council, to be known as the mental health oversight advisory council, to provide input to the department in the development and management of any public mental health system. The advisory council is not subject to 2-15-122. The advisory council membership must include:

(i) one-half of the members as consumers of mental health services, including persons with serious mental illnesses who are receiving public mental health services, other recipients of mental health services, former recipients of public mental health services, and immediate family members of recipients of mental health services; and

(ii) advocates for consumers or family members of consumers, members of the public at large, providers of mental health services, legislators, and department representatives.

(b) The advisory council under this section may be administered so as to fulfill any federal advisory council requirements to obtain federal funds for this program.

(c) Geographic representation must be considered when appointing members to the advisory council in order to provide the widest possible representation.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 577, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 466, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 120, L. 2013.

53-21-703. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall adopt appropriate rules necessary for the administration of a program to provide mental health managed care services. The rules must establish eligibility criteria and may include but are not limited to financial standards and criteria for income and resources, treatment of resources, nonfinancial criteria, residency, application, termination, definition of terms, and confidentiality of applicant and recipient information.

(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing the amount, scope, and duration of services. The rules may also include but are not limited to ensuring that services are medically necessary and that the services are the most efficient and cost-effective available.

(3) The department may adopt rules establishing rates of reimbursement of services provided under this part, selection and qualification of providers, and standards for managed care.

(4) Rules adopted by the department must take into account, when appropriate, the availability of appropriated funds, the actual costs of services, the quality of services, the professional knowledge and skills necessary for the delivery of services, and the availability of services.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 577, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Government Health Care Information Act, Title 50, ch. 16, part 6.

53-21-704. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 466, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 577, L. 1999.

Parts 8 and 9 reserved

Part 10

Service Area Authorities

53-21-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community mental health center" means a licensed mental health center that provides comprehensive public mental health services in a multicounty region under contract with the department, counties, or one or more service area authorities.

(2) "Licensed mental health center" means an entity licensed by the department of public health and human services to provide mental health services and has the same meaning as mental health center as defined in 50-5-101.

(3) "Service area" means a region of the state as defined by the department by rule within which mental health services are administered.

(4) "Service area authority" means an entity, as provided for in 53-21-1006, that has incorporated to collaborate with the department for the planning and oversight of mental health services within a service area.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 481, L. 2009.

53-21-1002. Duties of department. The department:

(1) shall take cognizance of matters affecting the mental health of the citizens of the state;

(2) shall initiate mental health care and treatment, prevention, and research as can best be accomplished by community-centered services. The department shall initiate and operate services in cooperation with local agencies, service area authorities, mental health professionals, and other entities providing services to persons with mental illness.

(3) shall specifically address:

(a) provider contracting;

(b) service planning;
(c) preadmission screening and discharge planning;
(d) quality management;
(e) utilization management and review;
(f) consumer and family education; and
(g) rights protection;

(4) shall collect and disseminate information relating to mental health;

(5) shall prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to develop public mental health services in the state and to establish service areas;

(6) must receive from agencies of the United States and other state agencies, persons or groups of persons, associations, firms, or corporations grants of money, receipts from fees, gifts, supplies, materials, and contributions for the development of mental health services within the state;

(7) shall establish qualified provider certification standards by rule, which may include requirements for national accreditation for mental health programs that receive funds from the department;

(8) shall perform an annual review and evaluation of mental health needs and services within the state by region and evaluate the performance of programs that receive funds from the department for compliance with federal and state standards;

(9) shall coordinate state and community resources to ensure comprehensive delivery of services to children with emotional disturbances, as provided in Title 52, chapter 2, part 3; and

(10) shall coordinate the establishment of service area authorities, as provided in 53-21-1006, to collaborate with the department in the planning and oversight of mental health services in a service area.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 553, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 81, L. 2017.

53-21-1003 through 53-21-1005 reserved.

53-21-1006. Service area authorities — leadership committees — boards — plans. (1) In the development of a service area authority, public meetings must be held in communities throughout a service area as defined by the department by rule. The purpose of the meetings is to assist the department to establish a stakeholder leadership committee. The meetings must be designed to solicit input from consumers of services for persons with mental illness, advocates, family members of persons with mental illness, mental health professionals, county commissioners, and other interested community members.

(2) The leadership committee within each service area must include but is not limited to a significant portion of consumers of services for persons with mental illness, family members of persons with mental illness, and a mental health services provider. The department shall provide assistance for the development of a leadership committee. The department shall approve a leadership committee within each service area.

(3) The leadership committee within each service area shall establish a service area authority board and create bylaws that describe the board's functions and method of appointment. The bylaws must be submitted to the department for review. The majority of the members of the board must be consumers of mental health services and family members of consumers.

(4) The service area authority board must be established under Title 35, chapter 2. Nonprofit corporations incorporated for the purposes of this part may not be considered agencies of the department or the state of Montana.

(5) A service area authority board:

(a) shall collaborate with the department for purposes of planning and oversight of mental health services of the service area, including:
(i) provider contracting;
(ii) quality and outcome management;
(iii) service planning;
(iv) utilization management and review;
(v) preadmission screening and discharge planning;
(vi) consumer advocacy and family education and rights protection;

(vii) infrastructure;

(viii) information requirements; and

(ix) procurement processes;

(b) shall review and monitor crisis intervention programs established pursuant to 53-21-1202;

(c) shall submit a biennial review and evaluation of mental health service needs and services within the service area;

(d) shall keep all records of the board and make reports required by the department;

(e) may enter into contracts with the department for purposes of planning and oversight of the service area if the department certifies that the service area authority is capable of assuming the duty;

(f) may receive and shall administer funding available for the provision of mental health services, including grants from the United States government and other agencies, receipts for established fees rendered, taxes, gifts, donations, and other types of support or income. All funds received by the board must be used to carry out the purposes of this part.

(g) may reimburse board members for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings and in the discharge of board duties as assigned by the board;

(h) shall either include a county commissioner or work closely with county commissioners in the service area; and

(i) shall take into consideration the policies, plans, and budget developed by the children's system of care planning committee provided for in 52-2-303.

(6) A service area authority may not directly provide mental health services.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 553, L. 2005.

53-21-1007. Mental health services contracts. (1) The department shall provide for public mental health services for the purposes of the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness to the extent funded by the legislature.

(2) The department may administer the provision of services for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness directly or indirectly through contract with other agencies of government, private or public agencies, private professional persons, hospitals, or licensed mental health centers.

(3) The department is directed to encourage and create incentives for the use of funding generated by local governments to provide mental health services to participate in federal cost-sharing programs.

(4) The department shall promote the rights of persons with mental illness who are eligible for services to have a choice among qualified providers of mental health services or support services that are administered or funded by the department.

(5) The department shall develop contracts to be bid competitively under the Montana Procurement Act for any service administered or funded by the department that will limit a client's choice of a provider of that service in order to ensure accountability and that necessary services are delivered in all areas of the state. The exception for human services as provided in 18-4-123(18) does not apply.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 553, L. 2005.

53-21-1008 and 53-21-1009 reserved.

53-21-1010. County commissioners — community mental health centers — licensed mental health centers. (1) The county commissioners in each of the counties in the region or service area that are designated as participating counties pursuant to subsection (4) may appoint, upon request, a person from their respective county to serve as a representative of the county on a community mental health center board or other licensed mental health center board.

(2) A community mental health center board or other licensed mental health center board may establish a recommended proportionate level of financial participation for each of the counties within the region for the provision of mental health services within the limits of financial participation authorized by this section.

(3) Prior to June 10 of each year, the board of a community mental health center or other licensed mental health center may submit an annual budget to the board of county commissioners

of each of the counties within their mental health region or service area, specifying each county's recommended proportionate share.

(4) If a board of county commissioners includes in the county budget the county's proportionate share of the community mental health center or other licensed mental health center board's budget, the county must be designated as a participating county. Funds for each participating county's proportionate share for the operation of mental health services within the region must be derived from the county's general fund. Subject to 15-10-420, if the general fund is insufficient to meet the approved budget, a levy may be made on the taxable valuation of the county.

(5) Each board of county commissioners, after determining the amount of county general fund money to be used for mental health services, may contract with a community mental health center or another licensed mental health center or provider for mental health services in the county.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 602, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 453, L. 2005.

53-21-1011. Continuation of services. This part may not be construed to prevent the continuation of services by or the facilities of existing community mental health centers or of any other appropriately certified or licensed mental health center or mental health professional.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

53-21-1012. Availability of services. (1) The services funded by the department are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, or ability to pay and must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

(2) Services available to individuals unable to pay may be limited by the department based upon availability of funding.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 602, L. 2003.

53-21-1013. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:

(1) create service area authorities that collaborate with the department and local advisory councils to plan, implement, and evaluate regional public mental health care within the budget constraints for each service region;

(2) promote consumer and family leadership within the public mental health system through service area authorities; and

(3) foster a consumer-driven and family-driven system of public mental health care that advances:

(a) access to a continuum of mental health services; and

(b) individual choice of services and providers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 2005.

Part 11
Suicide Prevention Program

53-21-1101. Suicide prevention officer — duties. (1) The department shall implement a suicide prevention program administered by a suicide prevention officer attached to the division responsible for administering adult mental health services. The program must be informed by the best available evidence.

(2) The suicide prevention officer shall:

(a) coordinate all suicide prevention activities being conducted for both children and adults by all divisions within the department and coordinate with any suicide prevention activities that are conducted by other state agencies, including the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of corrections, the department of military affairs, the university system, and other stakeholders;

(b) develop a biennial suicide reduction plan in accordance with 53-21-1102 that addresses reducing suicides by Montanans of all ages, ethnic groups, and occupations;

(c) request from the prescription drug registry provided for in 37-7-1502 a list of all controlled substances dispensed to each person whose death was ruled to be a suicide;

(d) report to the legislature annually, in accordance with 5-11-210 and subsection (3) of this section, on the toxicology information submitted by county coroners and the prescription drug registry information regarding the medications prescribed to individuals whose manner of death was ruled to be a suicide; and

(e) direct a statewide suicide prevention program with activities based on the best available evidence that include but are not limited to:

(i) conducting statewide communication campaigns aimed at normalizing the need for all Montanans to address their mental health and utilizing both paid and free media, including digital and social media, and including input from government agencies, school representatives from elementary schools through higher education, mental health advocacy groups, veteran groups, and other relevant nonprofit organizations;

(ii) initiating, in partnership with Montana's tribes and tribal organizations, communication and training that is culturally appropriate and utilizes the modalities best suited for Indian country;

(iii) seeking opportunities for research that will improve understanding of suicide in Montana and provide increased suicide-related services;

(iv) training for medical professionals, military personnel, school personnel, social service providers, and the general public on recognizing the early warning signs of suicidality, depression, and other mental illnesses as well as actions, based on the best available evidence, to take during and after a crisis;

(v) identifying and using available resources, which may include providing grants to entities, including but not limited to tribes, tribal and urban health organizations, local governments, schools, health care providers, professional associations, and other nonprofit and community organizations, for development or expansion of evidence-based suicide prevention programs in accordance with the requirements of 53-21-1111;

(vi) building a multifaceted, lifespan approach to suicide prevention; and

(vii) obtaining, analyzing, and reporting program evaluation data, quality health outcomes, and suicide morbidity and mortality data, subject to existing confidentiality protections for the data.

(3) The suicide prevention officer may coordinate with appropriate department personnel in preparing the report required under subsection (2)(d). The report may contain only deidentified information.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 405, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 405, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-21-1102. Suicide reduction plan. (1) The department shall produce a biennial suicide reduction plan that must be submitted to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

(2) The plan must include:

(a) an assessment of both risk and protective factors impacting Montana's suicide rate;

(b) an assessment of both risk factors and protective factors impacting the suicide rates of active duty members, reserve members, and guard members of the uniformed services and veterans in Montana;

(c) specific activities to reduce suicide, including activities directed at active duty members, reserve members, and guard members of the uniformed services and veterans;

(d) concrete targets for suicide reduction among various demographic populations, including but not limited to American Indians, active duty members, reserve members, and guard members of the uniformed services and veterans, and youth;

(e) measurable outcomes for all activities; and

(f) information on all existing state suicide reduction activities for all state agencies, as well as any known local or tribal suicide reduction activities.

(3) Upon the development of a suicide reduction plan draft, the department shall initiate a public comment period of not less than 21 days during which members of mental health advocacy groups and other interested parties may submit comments on and suggestions for the plan. The department shall produce a final plan, which takes public comment into account, no later than 60 days after the close of the comment period. The plan must be published on the department's website and submitted to:

(a) the children, families, health, and human services interim committee and the legislature as provided in 5-11-210;
(b) the director of the department; and
(c) the governor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 2021.

53-21-1103. Suicide hotline. (1) The department is required to have a suicide crisis hotline available, staffed by paid, trained employees 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

(2) The hotline may be operated by the department or by a qualified Montana-based, nonprofit organization.

(3) The department shall conduct an annual review of hotline utilization and operator performance.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 471, L. 2007.

53-21-1104 reserved.

53-21-1105. Terminated. Sec. 16, Ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 2013.

53-21-1106. Terminated. Sec. 16, Ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 353, L. 2013.

53-21-1107. Terminated. Sec. 16, Ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 2013.

53-21-1108. Terminated. Sec. 16, Ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 353, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 348, L. 2015.

53-21-1109. Terminated. Sec. 16, Ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 353, L. 2013.

53-21-1110. Terminated. Sec. 16, ch. 353, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 353, L. 2013.

53-21-1111. Suicide prevention grants. (1) The department shall administer a grant program from funds appropriated by the legislature for suicide prevention activities pursuant to this section.

(2) (a) To be eligible for a grant under this section, an entity shall demonstrate credible evidence to the department that the activity to be funded is effective in preventing suicide.
(b) An activity must be considered effective if it meets one or more of the following criteria:
(i) it has been cited as effective by peer-reviewed research or literature;
(ii) it was a formally adopted recommendation of the Montana suicide review team established in section 3, Chapter 353, Laws of 2013; or
(iii) it increases knowledge of and response to adverse childhood experiences.

(3) The requirements of this section apply to youth suicide prevention programs funded with money from the healing and ending addiction through recovery and treatment account provided for in 16-12-122.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 233, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Part 12
Jail Diversion and Crisis Intervention

53-21-1201. Diversion of certain persons suffering from mental disorders from detention center. (1) The sheriff or administrator of a detention center in each county shall require screening of inmates to identify persons accused of minor misdemeanor offenses who appear to be suffering from mental disorders and who may require commitment, as defined in 53-21-102.

(2) If as a result of screening and observation it is believed that an inmate is suffering from a mental disorder and may require commitment, the sheriff or administrator of the detention center shall:

(a) request services from a crisis intervention program established by the department, as provided for in 53-21-1202;

(b) refer the inmate to the nearest qualified mental health care provider as arranged by the county; or

(c) subject to 53-21-193 and subsection (3) of this section, transfer the inmate to a private mental health facility, a behavioral health inpatient facility, or a hospital equipped to provide treatment and care of persons who are suffering from a mental disorder and who require commitment.

(3) The facility must be notified, and the facility shall state that a bed is available and agree to accept transfer of the patient based on admission criteria before a person may be transferred under this section.

(4) As used in this section, the term "minor misdemeanor offense" includes but is not limited to a nonserious misdemeanor, such as criminal trespass to property, loitering, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the public peace.

(5) A person intoxicated by drugs or alcohol who is accused of a minor misdemeanor offense may be detained in a jail until the level of intoxication is reduced to the point that screening for a mental disorder and the need for commitment can be performed.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 636, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 488, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 513, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 561, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 602, L. 2003; Sec. 53-21-138, MCA 2007; redes. 53-21-1201 by Sec. 3(2), Ch. 479, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Mileage and expenses of Sheriff for delivery of mentally ill persons, 7-32-2144.

Definition of misdemeanor, 45-2-101.

53-21-1202. Crisis intervention programs — rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall, subject to available appropriations for the purposes of this part, establish crisis intervention programs. The programs must be designed to provide 24-hour emergency admission and care of persons suffering from a mental disorder and requiring commitment in a temporary, safe environment in the community as an alternative to placement in jail.

(2) The department shall provide information and technical assistance regarding needed services and assist counties and federally recognized tribal governments in developing plans for crisis intervention services and for the provision of alternatives to jail placement.

(3) The department may provide crisis intervention programs as:

(a) a rehabilitative service under 53-6-101(4)(j); and

(b) a targeted case management service authorized in 53-6-101(4)(o).

(4) The department shall adopt rules to:

(a) implement the grant program provided for in 53-21-1203;

(b) contract for detention beds pursuant to 53-21-1204; and

(c) pay for short-term inpatient treatment that is provided pursuant to 53-21-1205.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 636, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 489, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 530, L. 2005; Sec. 53-21-139, MCA 2007; redes. 53-21-1202 by Sec. 3(2), Ch. 479, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 713, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 29, Ch. 713, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

53-21-1203. State matching fund grants for county and tribal government crisis intervention, jail diversion, precommitment, and short-term inpatient treatment costs. (1) As soon as possible after July 1 of each new biennium, from funds appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of this section, the department shall grant to each eligible county or federally recognized tribal government state matching funds for:

(a) jail diversion and crisis intervention services to implement 53-21-1201 and 53-21-1202;

(b) insurance coverage against catastrophic precommitment costs if a county insurance pool is established pursuant to 2-9-211; and

(c) short-term inpatient treatment.

(2) Grant amounts must be based on available funding and the prospects that a plan submitted pursuant to subsection (3) will, if implemented, reduce admissions to the state hospital for emergency and court-ordered detention and evaluation and ultimately result in cost savings to the state. The department shall develop a sliding scale for state grants based upon

the historical use of the state hospital with a high-use applicant receiving a lower percentage of matching funds. The sliding scale must be based upon the number of admissions by applicant region compared to total admissions and upon the population of the applicant region compared to the state population.

(3) In order to be eligible for the state matching funds, a county or federally recognized tribal government shall, in the time and manner prescribed by the department:

(a) apply for the funds and include in the grant application a detailed plan for how the applicant and other local entities will collaborate and commit local funds for the mental health services listed in subsection (1);

(b) develop and submit to the department a county, tribal, or regional jail diversion and crisis intervention services strategic plan pursuant to 53-21-1201 and 53-21-1202, including a plan for community-based or regional emergency and court-ordered detention and examination services and short-term inpatient treatment;

(c) participate in a statewide or regional county insurance plan for precommitment costs under 53-21-132 if a statewide or regional insurance plan has been established as authorized under 2-9-211;

(d) participate in a statewide or regional jail suicide prevention program if one has been established by the department for the state or for the region in which the applicant is situated; and

(e) collect and report data and information on jail diversion, crisis intervention, and short-term inpatient treatment services in the form and manner prescribed by the department to support program evaluation and measure progress on performance goals.

(4) (a) Money appropriated for the purposes of this section must be used in the following order to:

(i) create crisis intervention or jail diversion services in areas of the state that currently lack services;

(ii) provide new crisis intervention or jail diversion services in areas of the state that have received state matching funds pursuant to this section for other purposes; or

(iii) recognize an increase in the demand for or use of services that have received funding in previous years.

(b) If money from the appropriation remains after grants have been allocated as provided in subsection (4)(a), the department shall provide continued support of projects funded in the previous biennium with state matching fund grants if a county or tribal government requests continued funding of the services created or provided through use of the matching funds. The department shall allocate funds provided pursuant to this subsection (4)(b) according to a formula adopted by the department by rule.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 219, L. 2017.

53-21-1204. Department to contract for detention beds. (1) To the extent funding is appropriated for the purposes of this section, for each service area, as defined in 53-21-1001, the department shall contract with a mental health facility for psychiatric treatment beds that may be used for:

(a) inpatient crisis intervention services needed prior to an involuntary commitment petition being filed; and

(b) emergency detention under 53-21-129 and court-ordered detention under 53-21-124 after an involuntary commitment petition has been filed but before final disposition.

(2) Contracting pursuant to this section must take into consideration strategic plans developed pursuant to 53-21-1201 and 53-21-1202 and local need for precommitment and short-term inpatient treatment services.

(3) Each contract must provide that for payment of costs for detention, evaluation, and treatment pursuant to subsection (1), the facility shall bill for payment of costs in the order of priority provided for under 53-21-132(2)(a).

(4) Each contract must require the collection and reporting of fiscal and program data in the time and manner prescribed by the department to support program evaluation and measure progress on performance objectives. The department shall establish baseline data on emergency

and court-ordered detention admissions to the state hospital from each county and analyze the effect of contracting under this section on state hospital admissions.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 219, L. 2017.**

53-21-1205. Short-term inpatient treatment — process — placement — length — conditions for proceeding with commitment hearing. (1) When a commitment hearing has been suspended pursuant to 53-21-123(3)(b) so that the respondent may be diverted to short-term inpatient treatment, the professional person who conducted the examination shall, with the concurrence of the county attorney, recommend to the court an appropriate placement in a mental health facility with available short-term treatment beds.

(2) Short-term inpatient treatment may not exceed 14 days, except pending a commitment hearing scheduled pursuant to subsection (5).

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, a respondent may be released before completing 14 days of treatment if the professional person responsible for the respondent's treatment plan determines that the respondent no longer requires inpatient treatment. However, the county attorney and the respondent's attorney must be notified at least 24 hours before a respondent is released.

(4) When a respondent is released, the professional person shall notify the court and the court shall dismiss the commitment petition.

(5) The court must be notified and shall proceed with a commitment hearing within 5 business days of receiving notice of any of the following circumstances:

(a) the professional person responsible for the respondent's treatment plan determines that the respondent should not be released after 14 days of treatment because, in the professional person's judgment, an emergency situation would exist if the respondent were released;

(b) the respondent refuses treatment;

(c) the respondent's attorney requests the respondent's release before the 14-day treatment period is completed; or

(d) the county attorney objects to the respondent's release within 24 hours of being notified of the respondent's pending release as required in subsection (3).

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 481, L. 2009.**

53-21-1206. Treatment and discharge plan — safety — rights. (1) For each respondent admitted as an inpatient to a mental health facility for short-term inpatient treatment pursuant to 53-21-1205 and this section, the provisions of 53-21-162 and 53-21-180 apply, except as follows:

(a) the comprehensive physical and mental examination and review of behavioral status must be completed within 24 hours of admission;

(b) the individualized treatment plan must be implemented no later than 3 days after the admission; and

(c) a discharge plan must be developed prior to discharge.

(2) Short-term inpatient treatment must be provided in a manner that considers the safety of the respondent, other patients, staff, and the general public.

(3) A respondent in a mental health facility for short-term inpatient treatment is entitled to all of the rights and protections provided in part 1 of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 481, L. 2009.**

53-21-1207. Mental health services special revenue account. (1) There is a mental health services special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) The account consists of:

(a) money transferred into the account; and

(b) money appropriated by the legislature.

(3) Money in the account must be used by the department to pay for services provided by behavioral health peer support specialists pursuant to 53-6-101.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 576, L. 2021.**

53-21-1208. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 416, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 2019.**

53-21-1209. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 416, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 416, L. 2019.

53-21-1210. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 416, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 416, L. 2019.

Part 13
Mental Health Care Advance Directives

53-21-1301. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:

(1) promote more timely, informed, compassionate, and effective mental health care;

(2) recognize the right of any person who has capacity to give or withhold informed consent for mental health services;

(3) prevent unnecessary delays in receiving care for a mental disorder in times of impending or actual crisis;

(4) allow a person with mental illness to provide the legal authority for provision of health care during a period of incapacity, even over the person's own protest;

(5) reduce the use of costly legal interventions, including emergency detentions, civil commitment, involuntary medication, and guardianship;

(6) minimize the impacts of crisis on people, families, communities, and providers; and

(7) support the relationship between the provider and the patient by promoting thoughtful, constructive, and timely communication.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1302. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agent" means a person designated in a directive to make health care decisions for the principal granting power.

(2) "Capacity" is the ability of a person to understand the significant benefits and risks of and alternatives to proposed health care and to make and communicate a health care decision.

(3) "Directive" means a mental health care advance directive or any part of a mental health care advance directive.

(4) "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

(5) "Incapacitated" means that a person is determined by the supervising health care provider or a court to lack the ability to give or withhold consent for medical care.

(6) "Principal" means a person who executes a directive, whether or not that directive designates an agent to make health care decisions.

(7) "Supervising health care provider" means the primary physician or, if there is no primary physician or the primary physician is not reasonably available, the health care provider who undertakes primary responsibility for a principal's health care.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1303. Presumption of capacity. (1) A person is presumed to have capacity to make a health care decision and to create or revoke a directive.

(2) This part does not affect the right of a person to make health care decisions while having capacity to do so.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1304. Scope of mental health care advance directive. (1) An adult with capacity may execute a directive. A minor at least 16 years of age with capacity or an emancipated minor as defined in 41-1-401 with capacity may execute a directive.

(2) A directive must:

(a) be in writing;

(b) contain language that clearly indicates that the principal intends to create a directive;

(c) be dated and signed by the principal or at the principal's direction and in the principal's presence if the principal is unable to sign; and

(d) be notarized.

(3) A directive executed in accordance with this part is presumed to be valid. The inability to honor one or more provisions of a directive does not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

(4) A directive may include any provision relating to mental health treatment, any other medical treatment that may directly or indirectly affect mental health, and the general care of the principal. A directive may include but is not limited to:

(a) instructions for mental health treatment, including medical, behavioral, and social interventions;

(b) consent to specific types of mental health treatment, including medications, other medical treatment, hospitalization, and nonmedical interventions;

(c) refusal to consent to specific types of mental health treatment;

(d) consent to admission to and retention in a facility for mental health treatment;

(e) instructions limiting the revocability of the directive;

(f) descriptions of situations that may cause the principal to experience a mental health crisis;

(g) descriptions of behaviors and other indicators that the principal lacks capacity;

(h) instructions to apply interventions that deescalate crisis behaviors and instructions to avoid interventions that escalate crisis behaviors;

(i) instructions regarding who should or should not be notified of the principal's admission to a treatment facility or be allowed to visit the principal at the facility;

(j) appointment of an agent to make mental health treatment decisions on the principal's behalf; and

(k) the principal's nomination of a guardian, limited guardian, or conservator for consideration by the court if guardianship proceedings are commenced.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1305. Validity of appointment of agent. If the directive appoints an agent, the agent may accept the appointment by signing the directive. The agent's signature does not have to be witnessed, notarized, or otherwise validated. The lack of agent's signature does not affect the validity of the directive. The directive may provide for one or more alternate agents. The authority of the agent is in effect only after a determination of incapacity as provided in this part and only for as long as the period of incapacity.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1306 through 53-21-1310 reserved.

53-21-1311. Prohibited elements. A directive may not:

(1) create an entitlement to mental health treatment or other medical treatment;

(2) obligate any health care provider, professional person, health care facility, or insurer to pay the costs associated with the treatment requested;

(3) obligate any health care provider, professional person, or health care facility to be responsible for services outside the scope of services the person or facility normally provides; or

(4) bind any person who is not a provider of health care services to confer any benefit on the principal.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1312. When a directive takes effect — determination of incapacity. (1) A directive is valid upon execution but takes effect only upon a determination of incapacity as provided in this part.

(2) A principal, agent, professional person, or health care provider may seek a determination regarding whether the principal is incapacitated or has regained capacity.

(3) For the purpose of triggering the directive, a determination that the principal lacks capacity or has regained capacity must be made by the supervising health care provider.

(4) For the purpose of triggering the directive, a directive may require the concurrence of two health care providers, one of whom must be the supervising health care provider in the determination of incapacity. The directive may require that one of the concurring providers is a psychiatrist or other physician.

(5) The determination of incapacity must consider all factors identified in the directive as evidence of incapacity.

(6) Unless otherwise specified in the directive, the authority of an agent becomes effective upon a determination that the principal lacks capacity and ceases to be effective upon a determination that the principal has regained capacity.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1313. Provider of mental health services. (1) A provider of mental health services or a supervising health care provider shall:

(a) inquire whether a directive exists and make a written record of the response; and

(b) include a copy of the directive and any written revocation in the health care record if the directive or revocation are provided.

(2) A supervising health care provider who makes or is informed of a determination that a principal lacks or has regained capacity or that another condition exists that affects an individual instruction or the authority of an agent shall promptly record the determination or condition in the principal's health care record and communicate the determination or condition to the principal, if possible, and to any person or agent authorized to make health care decisions for the patient.

(3) After a determination of incapacity a supervising health care provider shall communicate health care decisions to the principal to the extent possible.

(4) A health care provider or institution providing care to the principal under the authority of a directive shall comply with the provisions of the directive and with all reasonable interpretations of the directive by the agent to the fullest extent possible unless the supervising health care provider determines that:

(a) compliance violates the accepted standard of care;

(b) compliance conflicts with the applicable law or a court order;

(c) the requested treatment is not reasonably available; or

(d) an emergency situation exists and compliance endangers the principal's life or health.

(5) A health care provider or mental health professional may not require or prohibit the execution or revocation of a directive as a condition for providing health care. A health care provider's inability to follow the specific terms of the directive because it violates the standard of care does not require a revocation of the directive. A health care provider or mental health professional may not promote the creation, alteration, adoption, or revocation of a directive under circumstances that are or reasonably appear to be coercive.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1314. Duties of agent. (1) An agent shall act in good faith.

(2) An agent shall make health care decisions in accordance with the principal's written instructions or directive if any. When the agent must make decisions not addressed by the written instructions or directive, the agent shall base decisions on the principal's known wishes and upon the agent's best judgment about how the principal would decide based on the principal's own values and experience.

(3) An agent may resign by giving written notice to the principal. If the directive is in effect at the time of the resignation, the agent may resign by giving written notice to the supervising health care provider.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1315. Health care decisions in event of the principal's protest. An agent may make a health care decision over the protest of a principal who lacks capacity if:

(1) the directive is irrevocable at times of incapacity;

(2) the directive authorizes the agent to make the health care decision at issue; and

(3) the health care that is to be provided, continued, withheld, or withdrawn is determined and documented by the supervising health care provider to be medically appropriate and is otherwise permitted by law.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1316 through 53-21-1320 reserved.

53-21-1321. Explicit authorization required for certain treatment. Electroconvulsive therapy or surgical or experimental treatment may be provided to a principal after a determination of incapacity only if the directive explicitly consents to the particular therapy or treatment.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1322. Authorization for admission to inpatient treatment — effect of directive. (1) A principal whose directive is irrevocable during a period of incapacity and who has provided consent to inpatient treatment in the directive or authorized an agent to consent to inpatient treatment may be admitted to inpatient mental health treatment if:

(a) a physician or psychiatric advanced practice registered nurse performs an evaluation of the principal, including consideration of history, diagnosis, and treatment needs, and makes a written determination that the principal needs further inpatient evaluation or treatment that cannot be provided in a less restrictive setting; and

(b) the agent, if any, provides written consent.

(2) The directive may provide limited consent to inpatient treatment, including limitations upon the length of time for each period of hospitalization and limitations on the facility or facilities to which the principal consents to be admitted.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1323. Expiration. A directive is valid indefinitely unless the directive includes an expiration date. A directive that expires during a period of incapacity of the principal remains in effect until the principal's capacity is restored.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1324. Revocation. (1) The principal may revoke a directive in whole or in part orally or in writing at any time unless the directive provides that:

(a) the directive is not revocable during a period of incapacity; or

(b) the directive is not revocable for a specified period of time after a determination of incapacity.

(2) As allowed by the terms of the directive, the principal may:

(a) revoke the designation of an agent only by a signed writing or by personally informing the supervising health care provider; and

(b) revoke other parts of a directive other than the designation of an agent at any time and in any manner that communicates an intent to revoke.

(3) A health care provider, agent, guardian, or conservator who is informed of a revocation shall promptly communicate the fact of the revocation to the supervising health care provider and to any health care institution where the patient is receiving care.

(4) A decree of annulment, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or legal separation revokes a previous designation of a spouse as agent unless otherwise specified in the directive or in a durable power of attorney.

(5) A directive revokes all prior directives unless the newest directive instructs otherwise.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1325. Effect of directive on existing law. (1) A directive does not override other provisions of law including Title 46, chapter 14, Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, and Title 72, chapter 5.

(2) A directive has no legal effect during a period of involuntary inpatient commitment or a period during which a person is subject to a court order for the care, custody, and treatment of the person pursuant to Title 46, chapter 14.

(3) If a principal executes other directives allowed under Montana law, including a living will or other power of attorney, the other directives must be construed as consistent with and may not override the mental health care advance directive.

(4) In addition to a directive executed under this part, a principal may designate an agent for other medical decisionmaking under 72-5-501 and 72-5-502.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 329, L. 2011.**

53-21-1326 through 53-21-1330 reserved.

53-21-1331. Nomination of guardian or conservator. A directive may nominate a guardian or conservator. The court in any guardianship proceeding shall determine whether there is a directive and shall appoint the guardian or conservator nominated in the directive, except when good cause or reason for disqualification exists.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1332. Decisions by guardian or conservator. When a valid directive is in existence at the time of a judicial determination of incapacity and appointment of a guardian or conservator of the principal:

(1) a guardian or conservator shall comply with the instructions in a principal's directive and may not revoke the principal's directive unless the appointing court provides authorization; and

(2) absent a court order to the contrary, a health care decision of an agent takes precedence over that of a guardian or conservator.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1333. Health care information. Unless otherwise specified in the directive, the agent has the same rights as the principal to request, receive, examine, copy, and consent to the disclosure of medical or any other health care information during a period of time when the agent is legally authorized to act on behalf of the principal.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1334. Immunities. (1) A health care provider or institution acting in good faith and in accordance with generally accepted health care standards applicable to the health care provider or institution is not subject to civil or criminal liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct for:

(a) complying with a health care decision of an agent who has authority under a directive to make a health care decision for a principal, including a decision to withhold or withdraw health care;

(b) declining to comply with a health care decision of a person claiming to be an agent based on a good faith belief that the person then lacked authority; or

(c) complying with a directive and assuming that the directive was valid when made and has not been revoked or terminated.

(2) A person acting as agent under this part is not subject to civil or criminal liability or discipline for unprofessional conduct for health care decisions made in good faith.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

53-21-1335. Judicial review. (1) A health care provider, principal, agent, or other interested person may request judicial review of the validity of a directive.

(2) A health care provider, principal, or other interested person may request judicial review of a decision by the agent.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

Part 14
Crisis Stabilization Services

53-21-1401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older.

(2) "Crisis" means a serious, unexpected situation resulting from an individual's apparent mental illness in which the individual's symptoms are of sufficient severity, as determined by a mental health practitioner, to require immediate care to avoid:

(a) jeopardy to the life or health of the individual; or

(b) death or bodily harm to the individual or to others.

(3) "Crisis stabilization" means development and implementation of a short-term intervention to respond to a crisis in order to:

(a) reduce the severity of an individual's symptoms of mental illness; and

(b) attempt to prevent the individual from receiving services in a more restrictive environment.

(4) "Crisis stabilization services" or "services" means the services allowed under 53-21-1403.

(5) "Presumptive eligibility" means a period of up to 72 hours after an individual is found to be in crisis and during which the individual is presumed to be eligible for crisis stabilization services that will be reimbursed by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 2013.**

53-21-1402. Purpose — limitations. (1) (a) The purpose of this part is to establish a program through which enrolled providers may be reimbursed by the department when they provide mental health services during a 72-hour period to stabilize an adult who:

(i) is in a mental health crisis; and

(ii) is uninsured or whose insurance does not adequately cover the cost of the services.

(b) Reimbursement for services provided during a presumptive eligibility period is ntended to reduce the need for the individual to receive more intensive services in a more restrictive setting.

(2) This part is not intended to establish an entitlement:

(a) for an individual to receive services under the program; or

(b) for a provider to be reimbursed for services delivered to an individual.

(3) The department may determine the duration of services to be reimbursed under the program and the types of providers who may receive reimbursement for services.

(4) The department or its designee may restrict reimbursement based on:

(a) the medical necessity of the services;

(b) availability of appropriate alternative services;

(c) the relative cost of services; or

(d) other relevant factors.

(5) (a) Subject to available funding, the department may suspend or eliminate reimbursement for services or otherwise limit services, benefits, or provider participation in the presumptive eligibility program.

(b) The department shall provide notice of changes to the program at least 10 days in advance of the date that the changes will be made by:

(i) publishing notice in Montana daily newspapers; and

(ii) providing written notice to crisis stabilization providers and other interested parties.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 2013.**

53-21-1403. Crisis stabilization services — requirements. (1) In order to qualify for reimbursement under this part, crisis stabilization services must be delivered in a safe environment to an individual in crisis as required under this section.

(2) Crisis stabilization services must:

(a) be delivered by an individual or facility that is enrolled with the department to provide services under this part;

(b) be provided in accordance with a plan for crisis stabilization that meets requirements established by the department by rule;

(c) include a plan for appropriate followup care; and

(d) be medically necessary mental health services that:

(i) are delivered in direct response to a crisis in an effort to stabilize the individual in crisis;

(ii) provide diagnostic clarity;

(iii) are designed to treat symptoms that can be improved during the presumptive eligibility period; and

(iv) provide an appropriate alternative to psychiatric hospitalization.

(3) Crisis stabilization services include but are not limited to:

(a) two psychiatric diagnostic interview examinations during the crisis stabilization period;

(b) coordination of care as defined by the department by rule;

(c) individual psychotherapy;

(d) family psychotherapy conducted with or without the patient;

(e) one-to-one community-based psychiatric rehabilitation and support; and

(f) crisis management services as defined by the department by rule.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 2013.**

53-21-1404. Claims and reimbursement — exceptions. (1) The department shall adopt and make available a fee schedule for crisis stabilization services.

(2) Claims for crisis stabilization services provided pursuant to this part must be submitted to the department as provided by rule.

(3) Providers shall accept the amounts payable under this section as payment in full for services delivered to eligible individuals during the presumptive eligibility period.

(4) Services delivered to an individual in crisis may not be reimbursed if:

(a) the services delivered were not approved for reimbursement by the department; or

(b) the provider is not enrolled with the department.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 201, L. 2013.

53-21-1405. Rulemaking authority. The department may adopt rules establishing:

(1) limits on the scope and duration of crisis stabilization services, except for reimbursement for two psychiatric diagnostic interviews during the presumptive eligibility period;

(2) requirements for participating providers and their enrollment in the program;

(3) the scope of services that may be reimbursed because they involve coordination or management of care;

(4) the elements of the required plan for crisis stabilization;

(5) procedures for submitting claims for reimbursement for services provided during the presumptive eligibility period;

(6) procedures for the department's review and audit of claims and for recovery of overpayments;

(7) recordkeeping and confidentiality requirements; and

(8) any other requirements needed to carry out the purpose of this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 201, L. 2013.

CHAPTER 22
INTERSTATE COMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Part 1 — General Provisions

53-22-101. Enactment of compact.
53-22-102. Compact administrator.
53-22-103. Supplementary agreements.
53-22-104. Annual budget.
53-22-105. Court review.
53-22-106. Authenticated copies.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Transfer to nonstate facilities, 53-21-133.

53-22-101. Enactment of compact. The Interstate Compact on Mental Health as contained in this section is hereby enacted into law and entered into by this state with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

The contracting states solemnly agree that:

Article I

The party states find that the proper and expeditious treatment of the mentally ill and mentally deficient can be facilitated by cooperative action, to the benefit of the patients, their families, and society as a whole. Further, the party states find that the necessity of and desirability for furnishing such care and treatment bears no primary relation to the residence or citizenship of the patient but that, on the contrary, the controlling factors of community safety and humanitarianism require that facilities and services be made available for all who are in need of them. Consequently, it is the purpose of this compact and of the party states to provide the necessary legal basis for the institutionalization or other appropriate care and treatment of the mentally ill and mentally deficient under a system that recognizes the paramount mportance of patient welfare and to establish the responsibilities of the party states in terms of such welfare.

Article II

As used in this compact:

(1) "sending state" means a party state from which a patient is transported pursuant to the provisions of the compact or from which it is contemplated that a patient may be so sent;

(2) "receiving state" means a party state to which a patient is transported pursuant to the provisions of the compact or to which it is contemplated that a patient may be so sent;

(3) "institution" means any hospital or other facility maintained by a party state or political subdivision thereof for the care and treatment of mental illness or mental deficiency;

(4) "patient" means any person subject to or eligible, as determined by the laws of the sending state, for institutionalization or other care, treatment, or supervision pursuant to the provisions of this compact;

(5) "aftercare" means care, treatment, and services provided a patient, as defined herein, on convalescent status or conditional release;

(6) "mental illness" means mental disease to such extent that a person so afflicted requires care and treatment for the person's own welfare, the welfare of others, or of the community;

(7) "mental deficiency" means mental deficiency as defined by appropriate clinical authorities to such extent that a person so afflicted is incapable of managing the person and the person's affairs but shall not include mental illness as defined herein; and

(8) "state" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Article III

(1) Whenever a person physically present in any party state shall be in need of nstitutionalization by reason of mental illness or mental deficiency, the person shall be eligible for care and treatment in an institution in that state irrespective of the person's residence, settlement, or citizenship qualifications.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this article to the contrary notwithstanding, any patient may be transferred to an institution in another state whenever there are factors based upon clinical determinations indicating that the care and treatment of said patient would be facilitated or improved thereby. Any such institutionalization may be for the entire period of care and treatment or for any portion or portions thereof. The factors referred to in this subsection shall include the patient's full record with due regard for the location of the patient's family, character of the illness and probable duration thereof, and such other factors as shall be considered appropriate.

(3) No state shall be obliged to receive any patient pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2) of this article unless the sending state gives advance notice of its intention to send the patient, furnishes all available medical and other pertinent records concerning the patient, gives the qualified medical or other appropriate clinical authorities of the receiving state an opportunity to examine the patient if said authorities so wish, and unless the receiving state agrees to accept the patient.

(4) In the event that the laws of the receiving state establish a system of priorities for the admission of patients, an interstate patient under this compact shall receive the same priority as a local patient and shall be taken in the same order and at the same time that the patient would be taken if the patient were a local patient.

(5) Pursuant to this compact, the determination as to the suitable place of nstitutionalization for a patient may be reviewed at any time and such further transfer of the patient may be made as seems likely to be in the best interest of the patient.

Article IV

(1) Whenever, pursuant to the laws of the state in which a patient is physically present, it shall be determined that the patient should receive aftercare or supervision, such care or supervision may be provided in a receiving state. If the medical or other appropriate clinical authorities having responsibility for the care and treatment of the patient in the sending state

shall have reason to believe that aftercare in another state would be in the best interest of the patient and would not jeopardize the public safety, they shall request the appropriate authorities in the receiving state to investigate the desirability of affording the patient such aftercare in said receiving state, and such investigation shall be made with all reasonable speed. The request for investigation shall be accompanied by complete information concerning the patient's intended place of residence and the identity of the person in whose charge it is proposed to place the patient, the complete medical history of the patient, and such other documents as may be pertinent.

(2) If the medical or other appropriate clinical authorities having responsibility for the care and treatment of the patient in the sending state and the appropriate authorities in the receiving state find that the best interest of the patient would be served thereby and if the public safety would not be jeopardized thereby, the patient may receive aftercare or supervision in the receiving state.

(3) In supervising, treating, or caring for a patient on aftercare pursuant to the terms of this article, a receiving state shall employ the same standards of visitation, examination, care, and treatment that it employs for similar local patients.

Article V

Whenever a dangerous or potentially dangerous patient escapes from an institution in any party state, that state shall promptly notify all appropriate authorities within and without the jurisdiction of the escapee in a manner reasonably calculated to facilitate the speedy apprehension of the escapee. Immediately upon the apprehension and identification of any such dangerous or potentially dangerous patient, the patient shall be detained in the state where found pending disposition in accordance with law.

Article VI

The duly accredited officers of any state party to this compact, upon the establishment of their authority and the identity of the patient, shall be permitted to transport any patient being moved pursuant to this compact through any and all states party to this compact without interference.

Article VII

(1) No person shall be deemed a patient of more than one institution at any given time. Completion of transfer of any patient to an institution in a receiving state shall have the effect of making the person a patient of the institution in the receiving state.

(2) The sending state shall pay all costs of and incidental to the transportation of any patient pursuant to this compact, but any two or more party states may, by making a specific arrangement for that purpose, arrange for a different allocation of costs as among themselves.

(3) No provision of this compact shall be construed to alter or affect any internal relationships among the departments, agencies, and officers of and in the government of a party state or between a party state and its subdivisions as to the payment of costs or responsibilities therefor.

(4) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prevent any party state or subdivision thereof from asserting any right against any person, agency, or other entity in regard to costs for which such party state or subdivision thereof may be responsible pursuant to any provision of this compact.

(5) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to invalidate any reciprocal agreement between a party state and a nonparty state relating to institutionalization, care, or treatment of the mentally ill or mentally deficient or any statutory authority pursuant to which such agreements may be made.

Article VIII

(1) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to abridge, diminish, or in any way impair the rights, duties, and responsibilities of any patient's guardian on the guardian's own behalf or in respect of any patient for whom the guardian may serve, except that, where the transfer of any patient to another jurisdiction makes advisable the appointment of a supplemental or substitute guardian, any court of competent jurisdiction in the receiving state may make such

upplemental or substitute appointment and the court which appointed the previous guardian hall, upon being duly advised of the new appointment and upon the satisfactory completion of uch accounting and other acts as such court may by law require, relieve the previous guardian f power and responsibility to whatever extent shall be appropriate in the circumstances. In the ase of any patient having settlement in the sending state, the court of competent jurisdiction in he sending state shall have the sole discretion to relieve a guardian appointed by it or continue he guardian's power and responsibility, whichever it shall deem advisable. The court in the eceiving state may, in its discretion, confirm or reappoint the person or persons previously erving as guardian in the sending state in lieu of making a supplemental or substitute ppointment.

(2) The term "guardian" as used in subsection (1) of this article shall include any guardian, rustee, legal committee, conservator, or other person or agency however denominated who is harged by law with power to act for or responsibility for the person or property of a patient.

Article IX

(1) No provisions of this compact except Article V shall apply to any person institutionalized while under sentence in a penal or correctional institution or while subject to trial on a criminal harge or whose institutionalization is due to the commission of an offense for which, in the bsence of mental illness or mental deficiency, said person would be subject to incarceration in penal or correctional institution.

(2) To every extent possible it shall be the policy of states party to this compact that no atient shall be placed or detained in any prison, jail, or lockup, but such patient shall with all xpedition be taken to a suitable institutional facility for mental illness or mental deficiency.

Article X

(1) Each party state shall appoint a compact administrator who, on behalf of the dministrator's state, shall act as general coordinator of activities under the compact in that state nd who shall receive copies of all reports, correspondence, and other documents relating to any atient processed under the compact by that state either in the capacity of a sending or receiving tate. The compact administrator or the administrator's duly designated representative shall be he official with whom other party states shall deal in any matter relating to the compact or any atient processed thereunder.

(2) The compact administrators of the respective party states shall have power to romulgate reasonable rules to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of this ompact.

Article XI

The duly constituted administrative authorities of any two or more party states may enter nto supplementary agreements for the provision of any service or facility or for the maintenance f any institution on a joint or cooperative basis whenever the states concerned find that such greements will improve services, facilities, or institutional care and treatment in the fields f mental illness or mental deficiency. No such supplementary agreement shall be construed o as to relieve any party state of any obligation which it otherwise would have under other rovisions of this compact.

Article XII

This compact shall enter into full force and effect as to any state when enacted by it into law, nd such state shall thereafter be a party thereto with any and all states legally joining therein.

Article XIII

(1) A state party to this compact may withdraw therefrom by enacting a statute repealing he same. Such withdrawal shall take effect 1 year after notice thereof has been communicated fficially and in writing to the governors and compact administrators of all other party states. However, the withdrawal of any state shall not change the status of any patient who has been ent to said state or sent out of said state pursuant to the provisions of the compact.

(2) Withdrawal from any agreement permitted by Article VII(2) as to costs or from any upplementary agreement made pursuant to Article XI shall be in accordance with the terms of uch agreement.

Article XIV

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412(part); amd. Sec. 1927, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-22-102. Compact administrator. The director of the department of public health and human services is the compact administrator and may make any rules necessary for the administration of the compact. The director shall cooperate with all departments, agencies, and officers of the state and any political subdivision thereof to facilitate the proper administration of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health or of any supplementary agreement or agreements entered into thereunder by this state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412 (Art. XIV(2)); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 501, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-22-103. Supplementary agreements. The director may enter into supplementary agreements with appropriate officials of other states pursuant to Articles VII and XI of the compact.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412 (Art. XIV(3)).

53-22-104. Annual budget. The department of public health and human services in its annual budget shall include amounts necessary to discharge the financial obligations incurred by it to carry out the purposes of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412 (Art. XIV(4)); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 502, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 10, L. 2009.

53-22-105. Court review. The compact administrator is directed to consult with the immediate family of any proposed transferee and, in the case of a proposed transferee from an institution in this state to an institution in another party state, to not make a transfer out of the state without approval of the district or probate court. Before granting approval, the court shall hold hearings that it considers appropriate. In addition, the court shall designate some appropriate person to deliver written notice of the proposed transferee's right to a hearing to the proposed transferee and the transferee's guardian ad litem. The person serving the notices shall make a written return to the court that service has been made. At the conclusion of the hearing, if any, the court may approve the proposed transfer, order the release of the proposed transferee, or enter any other suitable order.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412 (Art. XIV(5)); amd. Sec. 1928, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

53-22-106. Authenticated copies. Duly authenticated copies of the compact shall, upon its approval, be transmitted by the secretary of state to the governor of each state, the attorney general, and the secretary of state of the United States and the Council of State Governments.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2412 (Art. XIV(6)).

CHAPTER 23
EUGENICAL STERILIZATION
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

53-23-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6401(part).**

53-23-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6401(part).**

53-23-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 332, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6403.**

53-23-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 332, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6404.**

53-23-105. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1981.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 332, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6406.**

CHAPTER 24
ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE

Part 1 — General Provisions

53-24-101. Legislative purpose.
53-24-102. Declaration of policy.
53-24-103. Definitions.
53-24-104. Deposit of funds from federal or private sources with state treasurer.
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53-24-106. Criminal laws limitation.
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53-24-108. Use of funds generated by taxation on alcoholic beverages.

Part 2 — Administration by Department of Public Health and Human Services

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53-24-205. Repealed.
53-24-206. Administration of financial assistance.
53-24-207. Comprehensive program for treatment.
53-24-208. Facility standards.
53-24-209. Rules for acceptance for treatment.
53-24-210. Repealed.
53-24-211. County plan to be submitted to department.
53-24-212 through 53-24-214 reserved.
53-24-215. Repealed.
53-24-216. Repealed.
53-24-217. Repealed.
53-24-218. Chemical dependency treatment room and board voucher program — eligibility — provider and participant requirements.

Part 3 — Treatment of Alcoholics and Intoxicated Persons

53-24-301. Treatment of the chemically dependent.
53-24-302. Involuntary commitment of alcoholics — rights.
53-24-303. Treatment and services for intoxicated persons.
53-24-304. Repealed.
53-24-305. Visitation and communication rights of patients.
53-24-306. Records of chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members.
53-24-307 through 53-24-309 reserved.
53-24-310. Definitions.
53-24-311. Recovery residence requirements.
53-24-312. Recovery residence prohibitions.
53-24-313. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services — annual county report.
53-24-314. Preferential placement at and referral to certified recovery residences — informed consent required for placement in certain certified recovery residences.

Part 1
General Provisions

53-24-101. Legislative purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter and the policy of this state to recognize chemical dependency as a problem affecting the health, safety, morals, economy, and general welfare of this state; to recognize chemical dependency as a problem subject to treatment; and to recognize the sufferer of chemical dependency as worthy of treatment and rehabilitation. It is the intent of this chapter to establish means whereby the appropriate resources of this state may be focused fully and effectively upon the problem of chemical dependency and utilized in implementing programs for the control and treatment of this problem.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 1969; Sec. 69-6201, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2701 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2701; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 1983.

53-24-102. Declaration of policy. It is the policy of the state of Montana to recognize alcoholism as an illness and that alcoholics and intoxicated persons may not be subjected to criminal prosecution because of their consumption of alcoholic beverages but rather should be afforded a continuum of treatment in order that they may lead normal lives as productive members of society.

History: En. 69-6211 by Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6211, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2708 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2708.

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of person in intoxicated condition, 45-2-203.

Unlawful possession of intoxicating substance, 45-5-624.

53-24-103. Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Alcoholic" means a person who has a chronic illness or disorder of behavior characterized by repeated drinking of alcoholic beverages to the extent that it endangers the health, interpersonal relationships, or economic function of the individual or public health, welfare, or safety.

(2) "Approved private treatment facility" means a private agency that has as its function the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of chemical dependency, that meets the standards prescribed in 53-24-208(1), and that is approved under 53-24-208.

(3) "Approved public treatment facility" means:

(a) a treatment agency operating under the direction and control of the department as a state agency and approved under 53-24-208; or

(b) a treatment agency operating under the direction and control of a local government and approved under 53-24-208.

(4) "Chemical dependency" means the use of any chemical substance, legal or illegal, that creates behavioral or health problems, or both, resulting in operational impairment. This term includes alcoholism, drug dependency, or both, that endanger the health, interpersonal relationships, or economic functions of an individual or the public health, welfare, or safety.

(5) "Commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities" means the organization nationally recognized by that name that surveys rehabilitation facilities upon their requests and grants accreditation status to a rehabilitation facility that it finds meets its standards and requirements.

(6) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(7) "Family member" is the spouse, mother, father, child, or member of the household of a chemically dependent person whose life has been affected by the actions of the chemically dependent person and who may require treatment.

(8) "Incapacitated by alcohol" means that a person, as a result of the use of alcohol, is unconscious or has judgment otherwise so impaired that the person is incapable of realizing and making a rational decision with respect to a need for treatment.

(9) "Incompetent person" means a person who has been adjudged incompetent by the district court.

(10) "Intoxicated person" means a person whose mental or physical functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol.

(11) "Prevention" has meaning on four levels; these are:

(a) education to provide information to the school children and general public relating to chemical dependency treatment and rehabilitative services and to reduce the consequences of life experiences acquired by contact with a chemically dependent person;

(b) early detection and recovery from the illness before lasting emotional or physical damage, or both, have occurred;

(c) if lasting emotional or physical damage, or both, have occurred, to arrest the illness before full disability has been reached;

(d) the provision of facility requirements to meet division program standards and improve public accessibility for services.

(12) "Rehabilitation facility" means a facility that is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of disabled individuals by providing comprehensive medical evaluations and services, psychological and social services, or vocational evaluation and training or any combination of these services and in which the major portion of the services is furnished within the facility.

(13) "Treatment" means the broad range of emergency, outpatient, intermediate, and inpatient services and care, including diagnostic evaluation, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social service care, vocational rehabilitation, and career counseling, which may be extended to chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members.

History: En. 69-6212 by Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6212, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 80-2709 by Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2709; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 503, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 188, L. 1997.

53-24-104. Deposit of funds from federal or private sources with state treasurer. Funds available to the department from federal or private sources for use in chemical dependency prevention, treatment, and control programs shall be deposited with the state treasurer to the account of the department in the federal special revenue fund or the state special revenue fund.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 303, L. 1969; Sec. 69-6207, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2707 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2707; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 700, L. 1989.

53-24-105. Application of administrative procedure act. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act applies to and governs all administrative actions taken under this chapter.

History: En. 69-6224 by Sec. 14, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6224, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2721 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2721.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

53-24-106. Criminal laws limitation. (1) A county, municipality, or other political subdivision may not adopt or enforce a local law, ordinance, resolution, or rule having the force of law that includes drinking, being a common drunkard, or being found in an intoxicated condition as one of the elements of the offense giving rise to a criminal or civil penalty or sanction.

(2) This section does not affect any law, ordinance, resolution, or rule against drunken driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, or other similar offense involving the operation of a vehicle, an aircraft, a boat, machinery, or other equipment or regarding the sale, purchase, dispensing, possessing, or use of alcoholic beverages at stated times and places or by a particular class of persons.

(3) This section does not prevent the department from imposing a sanction on or denying eligibility to applicants for or recipients of public assistance who fail or refuse to comply with all eligibility criteria and program requirements.

History: En. 80-2723 by Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2723; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 465, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, Title 61, ch. 8, part 10.

Intoxicated pedestrian, 61-8-508.

53-24-107. Public intoxication not criminal offense. (1) A person who appears to be intoxicated in public does not commit a criminal offense solely by reason of being in an intoxicated condition but may be detained by a peace officer for the person's own protection. A peace officer who detains a person who appears to be intoxicated in public shall proceed in the manner provided in 53-24-303 and subsection (3) of this section.

(2) If none of the alternatives in 53-24-303 are reasonably available, a peace officer may detain a person who appears to be intoxicated until the person is no longer creating a risk to self or others.

(3) A peace officer, in detaining the person, shall make every reasonable effort to protect the person's health and safety. The peace officer may take reasonable steps for the officer's own protection. An entry or other record may not be made to indicate that the person detained under this section has been arrested or charged with a crime.

(4) A peace officer, acting within the scope of the officer's authority under this chapter, is not personally liable for the officer's actions.

History: En. 80-2724 by Sec. 3, Ch. 403, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2724; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol, 53-24-303.

53-24-108. Use of funds generated by taxation on alcoholic beverages. (1) Revenue generated by 16-1-404, 16-1-406, and 16-1-411 and allocated to the department to be used in state-approved private or public programs whose function is the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of alcoholism, which for the purposes of this section includes chemical dependency, must be distributed as follows:

(a) 20% is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to be allocated as provided in 53-24-206(3)(b), and must be distributed as grants to state-approved private or public alcoholism programs;

(b) 6.6% is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to be distributed to state-approved private or public alcoholism programs that provide services for treatment and rehabilitation for persons with co-occurring serious mental illness and chemical dependency; and

(c) the remainder of funds not statutorily appropriated in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) may be distributed:

(i) as payment of fees for alcoholism services provided by state-approved private or public alcoholism programs and licensed hospitals for detoxification services; or

(ii) as matching funds for the Montana medicaid program administered by the department that are used for alcoholism and chemical dependency programs.

(2) A person operating a state-approved alcoholism program may not be required to provide matching funds as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (1)(a).

(3) In addition to funding received under this section, a person operating a state-approved alcoholism program may accept gifts, bequests, or the donation of services or money for the treatment, rehabilitation, or prevention of alcoholism.

(4) A person receiving funding under this section to support operation of a state-approved alcoholism program may not refuse alcoholism treatment, rehabilitation, or prevention services to a person solely because of that person's inability to pay for those services.

(5) A grant made under this section is subject to the following conditions:

(a) The grant application must contain an estimate of all program income, including income from earned fees, gifts, bequests, donations, and grants from other than state sources during the period for which grant support is sought.

(b) Whenever, during the period of grant support, program income exceeds the amount estimated in the grant application, the amount of the excess must be reported to the grantor.

(c) The excess must be used by the grantee under the terms of the grant in accordance with one or a combination of the following options:

(i) use for any purpose that furthers the objectives of the legislation under which the grant was made; or

(ii) to allow program growth through the expansion of services or for capital expenditures necessary to improve facilities where services are provided.

(6) Revenue generated by 16-1-404, 16-1-406, and 16-1-411 for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of alcoholism that has not been encumbered for those purposes by the counties of Montana or the department must be returned to the state special revenue fund for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of alcoholism within 30 days after the close of each fiscal year and must be distributed by the department the following year as provided in 53-24-206(3)(b).

History: En. 80-2725 by Sec. 7, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2725; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 470, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 140, L. 2003.

Part 2

Administration by Department of Public Health and Human Services

53-24-201. Department to administer chapter. The department shall administer the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 303, L. 1969; Sec. 69-6205, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2705 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2705.

53-24-202. State and local government to cooperate with department. All agencies of state government, local government, and all state and local government employees shall, upon request, cooperate with the department in its activities under this chapter, but nothing in the chapter shall be construed to give the department control over any state or local agency or employee unless otherwise provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 303, L. 1969; Sec. 69-6206, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2706 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2706.

53-24-203. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 711, L. 1979.

History: (1) thru (5)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 303, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6203, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 80-2702 by Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 80-2702, R.C.M. 1947; (6) thru (22)En. 69-6214 by Sec. 4, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6214, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2711 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; Sec. 80-2711, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2702(1), 80-2711.

53-24-204. Powers and duties of department. (1) To carry out this chapter, the department may:

(a) accept gifts, grants, and donations of money and property from public and private sources;

(b) enter into contracts; and

(c) acquire and dispose of property.

(2) The department shall:

(a) approve treatment facilities as provided for in 53-24-208;

(b) prepare a comprehensive long-term state chemical dependency plan every 4 years and update this plan each biennium;

(c) provide for and conduct statewide service system evaluations;

(d) distribute state and federal funds to the counties for approved treatment programs in accordance with the provisions of 53-24-108 and 53-24-206;

(e) plan in conjunction with approved programs and provide for training of program personnel delivering services to persons with a chemical dependency;

(f) establish the voucher program provided for in 53-24-218, including adopting rules to carry out the provisions of 53-24-218;

(g) establish criteria to be used for the development of new programs;

(h) provide planning for the optimal use of funds by increasing efficiency of services, ensuring existing needs are met, and encouraging rural counties to form multicounty districts or contract with urban programs for services;

(i) cooperate with the board of pardons and parole in establishing and conducting programs to provide treatment for intoxicated persons and persons with a chemical dependency in or on parole from penal institutions;

(j) establish standards for chemical dependency educational courses provided by state-approved treatment programs and approve or disapprove the courses;

(k) hold all state-approved facilities, programs, and providers to uniform standards as established by the department by rule; and

(l) assist all interested public agencies and private organizations in developing education and prevention programs for chemical dependency. *(Subsection (2)(f) terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 7, Ch. 187, L. 2023.)*

History: Ap.p. Sec. 3, Ch. 303, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6203; amd. and redes. 80-2702 by Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 37, L. 1977; Sec. 80-2702, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 3,

Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6213, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2710 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 1977; Sec. 80-2710, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2702(2), 80-2710; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 504, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 507, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 140, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2027.

Cross-References

Driving under influence — assessment, education, and treatment required, 61-8-1009.

53-24-205. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 140, L. 1985.

History: En. 80-2703 by Sec. 4, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2703.

53-24-206. Administration of financial assistance. (1) The department may apply for and receive grants, allotments, or allocations of funds or other assistance for purposes pertaining to the problems of chemical dependency or related social problems under laws and rules of the United States, any other state, or any private organization.

(2) The department may cooperate with any other government agency or private organization in programs on chemical dependency or related social problems. In carrying out cooperative programs, the department may make grants of financial assistance to government agencies and private organizations under terms and conditions agreed upon.

(3) (a) In administering proceeds derived from the liquor license tax, the beer license tax, or the wine tax, the department shall distribute those funds appropriated by the legislature. Money that is appropriated for distribution to approved private or public programs on a discretionary basis must be distributed to those programs that can demonstrate that:

(i) the program is achieving the goals and objectives mutually agreed upon by the program and the department; and

(ii) the receipt of additional funds would be justified.

(b) The remainder of the proceeds that are not appropriated, as provided in subsection (3)(a), or that are not statutorily appropriated in 53-24-108(1)(b) must be distributed to the counties for use by approved private or public programs. The distribution of these proceeds is statutorily appropriated as provided in 17-7-502 and must be distributed in the following manner:

(i) Eighty-five percent must be allocated according to the proportion of each county's population to the state's population according to the most recent United States census.

(ii) Fifteen percent must be allocated according to the proportion of the county's land area to the state's land area.

(c) Money distributed under subsection (3) may only be used for purposes pertaining to the problems of alcoholism and chemical dependency.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 303, L. 1969; Sec. 69-6204, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2704 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2704; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 38, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 703, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 470, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 140, L. 2003.

53-24-207. Comprehensive program for treatment. (1) The department shall establish a comprehensive and coordinated program for the treatment of chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members.

(2) The program must include:

(a) emergency treatment provided by a facility affiliated with or part of the medical service of a general hospital;

(b) inpatient treatment;

(c) intermediate treatment;

(d) outpatient treatment; and

(e) followup services.

(3) The department shall provide for adequate and appropriate treatment for alcoholics and intoxicated persons admitted under 53-24-301 through 53-24-303.

(4) All appropriate public and private resources must be coordinated with and used in the program if possible.

(5) The department shall prepare, publish, and distribute annually a list of all approved public and private treatment facilities.

History: En. 69-6215 by Sec. 5, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6215, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2712 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2712; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 1995.

53-24-208. Facility standards. (1) The department shall establish standards for approved treatment facilities that must be met for a treatment facility to be approved as a public or private treatment facility and fix the fees to be charged for the required inspections. The standards must be adopted by rule and may concern the health standards to be met and standards for the approval of treatment programs for patients.

(2) Facilities applying for approval shall demonstrate that a local need currently exists for proposed services.

(3) The department shall periodically inspect approved public and private treatment facilities at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner.

(4) The department shall maintain a list of approved public and private treatment facilities.

(5) Each approved public or private treatment facility shall, on request, file with the department data, statistics, schedules, and information that the department reasonably requires. An approved public or private treatment facility that without good cause fails to furnish any data, statistics, schedules, or information as requested or files fraudulent returns of the requested material must be removed from the list of approved treatment facilities.

(6) The department, after holding a hearing in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, may suspend, revoke, limit, or restrict an approval or refuse to grant an approval for failure to meet its standards.

(7) A district court may restrain any violation of this section, review any denial, restriction, or revocation of approval, and grant other relief required to enforce its provisions.

(8) Upon petition of the department and after a hearing held upon reasonable notice to the facility, a district court may issue a warrant to the department authorizing it to enter and nspect at reasonable times and examine the books and accounts of any approved public or private treatment facility that refuses to consent to inspection or examination by the department or that the department has reasonable cause to believe is operating in violation of this chapter.

(9) If a rehabilitation facility otherwise meets the requirement in subsection (2), the department may consider as eligible for approval during the accreditation period any rehabilitation facility that furnishes written evidence, including the recommendation for future compliance statements, of accreditation of its programs by the commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities. The department shall inspect a facility considered eligible for approval under this section to ensure compliance with state approval standards.

History: En. 69-6216 by Sec. 6, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6216, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2713 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2713; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 488, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

One-step licensing — inspection by other Department, Title 50, ch. 8.

53-24-209. Rules for acceptance for treatment. The department shall adopt rules for acceptance of persons into the treatment program, considering available treatment resources and facilities, for the purpose of early and effective treatment of chemically dependent persons, ntoxicated persons, and family members. In adopting the rules, the department must be guided by the following standards:

(1) If possible, a patient must be treated on a voluntary rather than an involuntary basis.

(2) A patient must be initially assigned or transferred to outpatient treatment unless found to require inpatient treatment.

(3) An individualized treatment plan must be prepared and maintained on a current basis for each person.

(4) Provision must be made for a continuum of coordinated treatment services so that a person who leaves a facility or a form of treatment will have available and use other appropriate treatment.

History: En. 69-6217 by Sec. 7, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6217, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2714 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2714; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 513, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-24-210. Repealed. Sec. 56, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

History: En. 69-6225 by Sec. 19, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6225, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 80-2722 by Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2722(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 112, L. 1991.

53-24-211. County plan to be submitted to department. (1) Every 4 years each county shall submit to the department a comprehensive countywide plan for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of chemical dependency. Each county shall also submit annual plan updates that include, at a minimum, allocation to approved programs of revenues generated by taxation on alcoholic beverages.

(2) The plan must have been approved by the board of county commissioners and must contain information regarding existing private and public chemical dependency programs within the county. The plan must also contain information regarding the current and future needs of the county for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of chemical dependency.

(3) The department shall approve or disapprove the countywide plan and annual updates. If the department disapproves a plan or update, the county may submit another plan or update to the department. In distributing funds to approved programs in a county, the department shall give consideration to the county plan.

(4) The department may adopt rules regarding the submission, submission dates, updates, approval, and disapproval of plans and the use of plans by the department in determining the needs of the county for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of chemical dependency. No money may be distributed to a county by the department for the treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of chemical dependency if the county does not comply with these rules.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 711, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 499, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 1991.

53-24-212 through 53-24-214 reserved.

53-24-215. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 507, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 1995.

53-24-216. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 507, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1991.

53-24-217. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 507, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 508, L. 1991.

53-24-218. *(Temporary)* **Chemical dependency treatment room and board voucher program — eligibility — provider and participant requirements.** (1) Subject to available funding, the department shall establish a room and board voucher program to support chemical dependency treatment for individuals who would otherwise be unable to access the treatment in a timely manner because of financial barriers.

(2) An approved private or public treatment program that has applied for and been selected to participate in the voucher program may submit vouchers for reimbursement of chemical dependency treatment room and board not otherwise covered by insurance or another assistance program. The individual receiving voucher-eligible services must:

(a) live in Montana;

(b) be 14 years of age or older; and

(c) have an annual family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

(3) The voucher program may be used to cover the costs of room and board.

(4) An approved treatment program may apply to participate in the voucher program. If approved, the program remains eligible to participate for the full budget biennium during which approval was received unless the department terminates the program's participation for cause.

(5) A participating treatment program:

(a) may submit vouchers for payment of room and board provided to a qualifying individual as soon as costs are incurred if other payment sources are not immediately available;

(b) shall report any change in an individual's income or insurance status that makes the ndividual ineligible for further voucher payments;

(c) shall collect and report outcome measures as required by the department by rule; and

(d) shall keep records as required by the department to substantiate the cost of program-provided room and board. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 7, Ch. 187, L. 2023.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 187, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Termination: Section 7, Ch. 187, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] terminates June 30, 2027."

Part 3
Treatment of Alcoholics and Intoxicated Persons

53-24-301. Treatment of the chemically dependent. (1) An applicant for voluntary admission or court-referred admission to an approved public or private treatment facility shall obtain confirmation that the applicant is chemically dependent and appropriate for medically monitored or managed inpatient care as described in the department's administrative rules. Any of the following health care professionals licensed under Title 37 may provide the confirmation required under this section:

(a) a physician;

(b) a naturopathic physician;

(c) a physician assistant;

(d) an advanced practice registered nurse; or

(e) a licensed addiction counselor.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to establish policies and procedures governing assessment, patient placement, confirmation, and admission to an approved public or private treatment facility. If the proposed patient is a minor or an incompetent person, the proposed patient or a parent, legal guardian, or other legal representative may make the application.

(3) Subject to rules adopted by the department, the administrator of an approved public treatment facility may determine who is admitted for treatment. If a person is refused admission to an approved public treatment facility, the administrator, subject to departmental rules, shall refer the person to an approved private treatment facility for treatment if possible and appropriate.

(4) If a patient receiving inpatient care leaves an approved public treatment facility, the patient must be encouraged to consent to appropriate outpatient or intermediate treatment. If it appears to the administrator of the treatment facility that the patient is chemically dependent and requires help, the department shall arrange for assistance in obtaining supportive services and residential facilities.

(5) If a patient leaves an approved public treatment facility, with or against the advice of the administrator of the facility, the department shall make reasonable provisions for the patient's transportation to another facility or to the patient's home. If the patient has no home, the patient must be assisted in obtaining shelter. If the patient is a minor or an incompetent person, the request for discharge from an inpatient facility must be made by a parent, legal guardian, or other legal representative or by the minor or incompetent, if the minor or incompetent person was the original applicant.

History: **En. 69-6218 by Sec. 8, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6218, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2715 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2715; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 164, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Rule defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Appointment of guardian, 25-5-301.

Certification of addiction counselors, Title 37, ch. 35.

Guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

53-24-302. Involuntary commitment of alcoholics — rights. (1) A person may be committed to the custody of the department by the district court upon the petition of the person's spouse or guardian, a relative, the certifying physician, or the chief of any approved public treatment facility. The petition must allege that the person is an alcoholic who habitually lacks self-control as to the use of alcoholic beverages and that the person has threatened, attempted, or inflicted physical harm on another and that unless committed is likely to inflict physical harm on another or is incapacitated by alcohol. A refusal to undergo treatment does not constitute evidence of lack of judgment as to the need for treatment. The petition must be accompanied by a certificate of a licensed physician who has examined the person within 2 days before submission of the petition unless the person whose commitment is sought has refused to submit to a medical examination, in which case the fact of refusal must be alleged in the petition. The certificate must set forth the physician's findings in support of the allegations of the petition. A physician employed by the admitting facility or the department is not eligible to be the certifying physician.

(2) Upon filing the petition, the court shall fix a date for a hearing no later than 10 days after the date the petition was filed. A copy of the petition and of the notice of the hearing, including the date fixed by the court, must be served on the petitioner, the person whose commitment is sought, the person's next of kin other than the petitioner, a parent or the person's legal guardian if the person is a minor, the administrator in charge of the approved public treatment facility to which the person has been committed for emergency care, and any other person the court believes advisable. A copy of the petition and certificate must be delivered to each person notified.

(3) At the hearing, the court shall hear all relevant testimony, including, if possible, the testimony of at least one licensed physician who has examined the person whose commitment is sought. The person has a right to have a licensed physician of the person's own choosing conduct an examination and testify on the person's behalf. If the person has no funds with which to pay the physician, the reasonable costs of one examination and testimony must be paid by the county. The person must be present unless the court believes that the person's presence is likely to be injurious to the person. The court shall examine the person in open court or, if advisable, shall examine the person in chambers. If the person refuses an examination by a licensed physician and there is sufficient evidence to believe that the allegations of the petition are true or if the court believes that more medical evidence is necessary, the court may make a temporary order committing the person to the department for a period of not more than 5 days for purposes of a diagnostic examination.

(4) If after hearing all relevant evidence, including the results of any diagnostic examination by the department, the court finds that grounds for involuntary commitment have been established by clear and convincing evidence, it shall make an order of commitment to the department. The court may not order commitment of a person unless it determines that the department is able to provide adequate and appropriate treatment for the person and that the treatment is likely to be beneficial.

(5) A person committed under this section must remain in the custody of the department for treatment for a period of 40 days unless sooner discharged. At the end of the 40-day period, the person must automatically be discharged unless before expiration of the period the department obtains a court order from the district court of the committing district for the person's recommitment upon the grounds set forth in subsection (1) for a further period of 90 days unless sooner discharged. If a person has been committed because the person is an alcoholic likely to inflict physical harm on another, the department shall apply for recommitment if after examination it is determined that the likelihood still exists.

(6) A person recommitted under subsection (5) who has not been discharged by the department before the end of the 90-day period must be discharged at the expiration of that period unless before expiration of the period the department obtains a court order from the district court of the committing district on the grounds set forth in subsection (1) for recommitment for a further period not to exceed 90 days. If a person has been committed because the person is an alcoholic likely to inflict physical harm on another, the department shall apply for recommitment if after examination it is determined that the likelihood still exists. Only two recommitment orders under subsections (5) and (6) are permitted.

(7) Upon the filing of a petition for recommitment under subsection (5) or (6), the court shall fix a date for hearing no later than 10 days after the date the petition was filed. A copy of the petition and of the notice of hearing, including the date fixed by the court, must be served on the petitioner, the person whose commitment is sought, the person's next of kin other than

the petitioner, the original petitioner under subsection (1) if different from the petitioner for recommitment, one of the person's parents or the person's legal guardian if the person is a minor, and any other person the court believes advisable. At the hearing, the court shall proceed as provided in subsection (3).

(8) A person committed to the custody of the department for treatment must be discharged at any time before the end of the period for which the person has been committed if either of the following conditions is met:

(a) in case of an alcoholic committed on the grounds of likelihood of infliction of physical harm upon another, that the person is no longer in need of treatment or the likelihood no longer exists; or

(b) in case of an alcoholic committed on the grounds of incapacity and the need of treatment, that the incapacity no longer exists, further treatment will not be likely to bring about significant improvement in the person's condition, or treatment is no longer adequate or appropriate.

(9) The court shall inform the person whose commitment or recommitment is sought of the person's right to contest the application, be represented by counsel at every stage of any proceedings relating to the person's commitment and recommitment, and have assigned counsel pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, if the person wants the assistance of counsel and is unable to obtain private counsel. If the court believes that the person needs the assistance of counsel, the court shall order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel for the person regardless of the person's wishes. The person whose commitment or recommitment is sought must be informed of the right to be examined by a licensed physician of the person's choice. If the person is unable to obtain a licensed physician and requests examination by a physician, the court shall employ a licensed physician.

(10) If a private treatment facility agrees with the request of a competent patient or the patient's parent, sibling, adult child, or guardian to accept the patient for treatment, the department may transfer the patient to the private treatment facility.

(11) A person committed under this section may at any time seek to be discharged from commitment by writ of habeas corpus or other appropriate means.

(12) The venue for proceedings under this section is the place in which the person to be committed resides or is present.

History: **En. 69-6221 by Sec. 11, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6221, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2718 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2718; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 358, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

Habeas corpus, Title 46, ch. 22.

53-24-303. Treatment and services for intoxicated persons. (1) A person who appears to be intoxicated in a public place and to be in need of help may be assisted to the person's home, an approved private treatment facility, or other health care facility by the police.

(2) A peace officer acting within the scope of the officer's authority under this chapter is not personally liable for the officer's actions.

History: **En. 69-6219 by Sec. 9, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6219, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2716 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2716; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Criminal laws limitation, 53-24-106.

Public intoxication not criminal offense, 53-24-107.

53-24-304. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 165, L. 1995.

History: **En. 69-6220 by Sec. 10, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6220, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2717 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 37, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 414, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2717; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 38, L. 1979.**

53-24-305. Visitation and communication rights of patients. (1) Subject to reasonable rules regarding hours of visitation which the department may adopt, patients in any approved treatment facility shall be granted opportunities for adequate consultation with counsel and for continuing contact with family and friends consistent with an effective treatment program.

(2) Neither mail nor other communication to or from a patient in any approved treatment facility may be intercepted, read, or censored. The administrator may adopt reasonable rules regarding the use of telephone by patients in approved treatment facilities.

History: **En. 69-6223 by Sec. 13, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6223, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2720 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2720.**

53-24-306. Records of chemically dependent persons, intoxicated persons, and family members. (1) The registration and other records of treatment facilities shall remain confidential and are privileged to the patient.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the department may make available in accordance with Title 50, chapter 16, part 5, or other applicable law information from patients' records for purposes of research into the causes and treatment of chemical dependency. Information under this subsection may not be published in a way that discloses patients' names or other identifying information.

History: **En. 69-6222 by Sec. 12, Ch. 302, L. 1974; Sec. 69-6222, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-2719 by Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-2719; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 406, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 632, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 396, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

53-24-307 through 53-24-309 reserved.

53-24-310. Definitions. As used in 53-24-310 through 53-24-314, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Alcohol and drug prevention or treatment facility" means a recovery residence, hospital, health or counseling center, or other entity providing alcohol and drug services.

(2) "Alcohol and drug services" includes evaluation, treatment, residential personal care, habilitation, rehabilitation, counseling, or supervision of persons with substance use disorders or services to persons designed to prevent substance use disorders that either receive funds from the department of public health and human services or assess fees for services provided.

(3) "Certified recovery residence" means a recovery residence, as defined in subsection (9), that has received certification or another form of approval from a certifying organization, as defined in subsection (4).

(4) "Certifying organization" means a recovery residence standards organization or an affiliate of a recovery residence standards organization that operates in the state of Montana and is recognized by the department of public health and human services.

(5) "Informed consent" means voluntary consent by an individual to a placement in a certified recovery residence only after full disclosure by a judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate of the following information:

(a) any limitations or prohibitions against narcotic medication associated with the certified recovery residence; and

(b) whether United States food and drug administration-approved medication-assisted treatment of substance use disorders, including the use of buprenorphine and suboxone, is limited or prohibited.

(6) "Levels of care" means the continuum of support ranging from nonclinical recovery residences to licensed clinical treatment.

(7) "Minor" means an individual under 18 years of age without regard to sex.

(8) "Qualified health care provider" means a person licensed as a physician, psychologist, social worker, clinical professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, addiction counselor, or another appropriate licensed health care practitioner.

(9) "Recovery residence" means a sober living home with a safe, family-like environment that promotes recovery from substance use disorders through services including but not limited to peer support, mutual support groups, and recovery services.

(10) "Sober" means free of alcohol and drugs, except for prescription medications taken as directed by a licensed prescriber, including medications approved by the United States food and drug administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

(11) (a) "Substance use disorder" means the use of any chemical substance, legal or illegal, hat creates behavioral or health problems, or both, resulting in operational impairment.

(b) This term includes alcoholism, drug dependency, or both, that endanger the health, nterpersonal relationships, or economic functions of an individual or the public health, safety, or welfare.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 648, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 648, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

53-24-311. Recovery residence requirements. (1) A recovery residence shall register with the department of public health and human services.

(2) A recovery residence may seek certification from a certifying organization.

(3) A recovery residence must have policies and protocols for the following:

(a) administrative oversight;

(b) quality standards, including if the recovery residence limits or prohibits the use of narcotic medication;

(c) its residents;

(d) emergencies, including fire, natural disasters, and health emergencies, including overdose; and

(e) eviction of a resident, including the return of the resident's personal effects and property.

(4) A recovery residence must meet state and municipal requirements that apply to a residence's dwelling size and occupancy, including but not limited to safety requirements, building codes, zoning regulations, and local ordinance requirements.

(5) A recovery residence shall keep opioid-overdose drugs on site in an easily accessible place and train staff and residents on the use of opioid-overdose drugs.

(6) Minor children of residents may reside with their parent in a certified recovery residence if allowed in the residence's policies and protocols and if the residence maintains an environment consistent with the welfare of minor residents.

(7) The recovery residence may not limit a resident's duration of stay to an arbitrary or fixed amount of time unless all transition and completion dates are agreed on by both parties at the time of admission. Each resident's duration of stay is determined by the resident's needs, progress, and willingness to abide by the recovery residence's protocols in collaboration with the recovery residence's owner and operator and, if appropriate, in consultation with a qualified health care provider.

(8) The recovery residence may permit residents to receive medication-assisted treatment.

(9) (a) Each recovery residence shall provide an annual compliance report to the certifying organization, including a description of any programming and services designed to reduce recidivism and facilitate rehabilitation among residents during the year covered by the report and the number of residents for whom such services were provided.

(b) The certifying organization shall provide an annual compliance report, including a description of any programming and services designed to reduce recidivism and facilitate rehabilitation among residents during the year covered by the report and the number of residents for whom such services were provided, in accordance with 5-11-210, to the criminal justice oversight council.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 648, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 648, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

53-24-312. Recovery residence prohibitions. (1) The operator or staff of a recovery residence may not:

(a) make a materially false or misleading statement or provide materially false or misleading information about the residence's identity, products, goods, services, or geographical locations in its marketing and advertising materials, media, and website;

(b) include on a website false information or electronic links, coding, or activation that provides false information or that surreptitiously directs the reader to another website;

(c) solicit, receive, or make an attempt to solicit or receive a commission, benefit, rebate, kickback, or bribe, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind, in return for a referral or an acceptance or acknowledgment of treatment from a qualified health care provider, provider of alcohol and drug services, or alcohol and drug prevention or treatment facility;

(d) engage or make an attempt to engage in a split-fee arrangement in return for a referral or an acceptance or acknowledgment of treatment from a qualified health care provider, provider of alcohol and drug services, or alcohol and drug prevention or treatment facility; or

(e) enter into a contract with a marketing provider who agrees to generate referrals or leads for the placement of patients with a qualified health care provider, provider of alcohol and drug services, or alcohol and drug prevention or treatment facility through a call center or a web-based presence unless this contract is disclosed to the prospective patient or resident.

(2) In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, a recovery residence that knowingly violates this section is subject to prosecution and penalties pursuant to the Montana Consumer Protection Act, Title 30, chapter 14, part 1.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 648, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 648, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

53-24-313. Powers and duties of department of public health and human services — annual county report. (1) The department of public health and human services shall:

(a) maintain a registry of recovery residences in the state;

(b) include on its website a public-facing list of certifying organizations that operate in the state and are recognized by the department;

(c) include on its website a public-facing list of recovery residences in the state that indicates which recovery residences are certified recovery residences; and

(d) ensure that it supports several sets of certification standards from various certifying organizations to accommodate various program models.

(2) (a) By the date and on a form prescribed by the department, each county shall submit to the department an annual report of known recovery residences in the county.

(b) A report must contain the following information for each known recovery residence:

(i) the name of the recovery residence;

(ii) the physical and mailing addresses of the recovery residence;

(iii) the name and contact information of the owner of the recovery residence; and

(iv) additional information when available, including:

(A) the name and contact information of the recovery residence manager or other leadership staff;

(B) the population served by the recovery residence;

(C) whether the recovery residence limits or prohibits the use of narcotic medication; and

(D) other information the county considers pertinent.

(3) As permitted by federal and state law, the department shall post the location or physical address of a recovery residence on the department's website.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 648, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 648, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

53-24-314. Preferential placement at and referral to certified recovery residences — informed consent required for placement in certain certified recovery residences. (1) The department of corrections shall establish a preference for certified recovery residences by encouraging and assisting appropriate individuals seeking placements in recovery residences.

(2) (a) A judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate may not refer an individual to an uncertified recovery residence.

(b) (i) A judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate shall refer an individual to at least two recovery residences, one of which must support United States food and drug administration-approved medication-assisted treatment of substance use disorders.

(ii) A judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate may not refer an individual to a certified recovery residence that does not permit the individual to receive treatment or take medication prescribed by a qualified health care provider without the informed consent of the individual who is subject to the referral.

(c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2)(b), when referring an individual to a recovery residence, a qualified health care provider, judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate shall consider the:

(i) culture of the recovery residence, including but not limited to the permissiveness of unhealthy behaviors, current residents' commitment to recovery and support of other residents, requirements and support to attend and seek clinical treatment and outside nonclinical sobriety support, and the general living environment;

(ii) geographic area, neighborhood, or external surrounding environment of the recovery residence;

(iii) physical living environment of the recovery residence;

(iv) level of training and professionalism of residence staff;

(v) recovery residence's reputation regarding ethical business practices, which may include but is not limited to fraud and abuse of residents;

(vi) recovery residence's relapse policy; and

(vii) availability of opioid-overdose reversal drugs.

(3) Any judge, magistrate, or justice of the peace who violates subsection (2)(a) is subject to disciplinary action by the judicial standards commission pursuant to Title 3, chapter 1, part 11.

(4) Subsection (2)(a) does not otherwise limit the referral options available for a person in recovery from a substance use disorder to any other appropriate placements or services.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 648, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 9, Ch. 648, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

CHAPTER 25
DISABILITY INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM

Part 1 — Montana Achieving a Better Life Experience Act

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Part 1
Montana Achieving a Better Life Experience Act

53-25-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Achieving a Better Life Experience Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 2015.

53-25-102. Purpose. (1) It is the intent of the legislature to provide access to a program authorized by section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting individuals with disabilities to maintain health, independence, and quality of life and to provide secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, federal and state medical and disability insurance, a beneficiary's employment, and other sources.

(2) The legislature further intends that the department achieve this purpose by:

(a) creating the Montana achieving a better life experience program, which is a public-private partnership using selected financial institutions to serve as depositories for individuals' savings accounts established pursuant to this chapter; or

[(b) contracting with another state that has a program under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, and that allows Montana residents to participate in the state's program].

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Account" means an eligible participating account established under this chapter by or on behalf of an eligible individual.

(2) "Agent" means one of the following persons acting on behalf of a designated beneficiary:

(a) a person acting under a power of attorney; or

(b) if no person holds a power of attorney, a parent or legal guardian of the designated beneficiary.

(3) "Annual contribution limit" means the limit established in section 529A(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(b)(2).

(4) "Application" means a form executed by or on behalf of a prospective designated beneficiary to enter into a participating trust agreement and open an account. The application incorporates the participating trust agreement by reference.

(5) "Committee" means the achieving a better life experience program oversight committee established in 53-25-105.

(6) "Contribution" means a payment to an account for the benefit of a designated beneficiary.

(7) "Contributor" means a person who makes a contribution to an account for the benefit of a designated beneficiary.

(8) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for in 2-15-2201.

(9) "Designated beneficiary" means the eligible individual on whose behalf an account is established.

(10) "Disability certifications" means disability certifications as defined in section 529A(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(e)(2).

(11) "Eligible individual" means an eligible individual as defined in section 529A(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(e)(1).

(12) "Financial institution" means a bank, commercial bank, national bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, credit union, insurance company, trust company, investment adviser, or other similar entity that is authorized to do business in this state.

(13) "Investment products" means, without limitation, certificates of deposit, savings accounts paying fixed or variable interest, financial instruments, one or more mutual funds, and a mix of mutual funds.

(14) "Member of the family" means, with respect to a designated beneficiary, a member of the family of the designated beneficiary as defined in section 529A(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(e)(4).

(15) "Nonqualified withdrawal" means a withdrawal from the account that is not:

(a) a qualified withdrawal;

(b) a withdrawal made as the result of the death of the designated beneficiary of an account; or

(c) a rollover distribution or a change of designated beneficiary described in 53-25-111.

(16) "Participating trust agreement" means an agreement between a designated beneficiary and the department or its designee that creates a trust interest in the trust and provides for participation in the program.

(17) "Program" means the Montana achieving a better life experience program provided for in this chapter and authorized under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A.

(18) "Program administrator" means the person appointed or contracted by the department to administer the daily operations of the program and provide marketing, recordkeeping, investment management, and other services for the program.

(19) "Program manager" means a financial institution that acts on behalf of the trust as provided in 53-25-112.

(20) "Qualified disability expenses" means qualified disability expenses as defined in section 529A(e)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(e)(5).

(21) "Qualified withdrawal" means a withdrawal from an account to pay the qualified disability expenses of the designated beneficiary of the account. A qualified withdrawal may be made by the beneficiary or the beneficiary's agent.

(22) "Rollover distribution" means a transfer of funds made:

(a) from one account in another state's qualified program to an account for the benefit of the same designated beneficiary or an eligible individual who is a family member of the former designated beneficiary; or

(b) from one account to another account for the benefit of an eligible individual who is a family member of the former designated beneficiary.

(23) "Trust" means the achieving a better life experience savings trust as provided in 53-25-121.

(24) "Trustee" means the department in its capacity as trustee of the trust.

(25) "Trust interest" means a designated beneficiary's interest in the trust created by a participating trust agreement and held for the benefit of the designated beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 2019.**

53-25-104. Program administration — rulemaking. (1) There is a Montana achieving a better life experience program. The department shall ensure that the program meets the requirements for an achieving a better life experience program under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A. The program administrator may request a private letter ruling from the internal revenue service or the United States secretary of health and human services and shall take any necessary steps to ensure that the program qualifies under federal law.

(2) The department may contract with an independent service provider as program administrator, in consultation with the committee. In considering potential independent service providers, the department shall consider each prospective provider's prior experience with disabled individuals and programs for disabled individuals, along with its other qualifications. If the department appoints one of its employees to act as program administrator, the department may contract with independent service providers to provide services including but not limited to establishing accounts, providing information about investment choices, meeting notice requirements, providing account statements, and other services typically utilized by investment and savings plans. The department may require participating financial institutions to pay the costs of the independent service provider.

(3) The department shall:

(a) establish by rule the terms and conditions of the program subject to the requirements of this chapter and section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A;

(b) as required under section 529A(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(d), require the program administrator to submit:

(i) upon the establishment of each account, a notice to the United States secretary of the treasury containing the name and state of residence of the designated beneficiary and any other information the secretary may require; and

(ii) electronically on a monthly basis to the United States commissioner of social security, statements on the relevant distributions and account balances of all accounts in the state.

(4) The department may allow the residents of other states access to the program.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 2019.**

53-25-105. Program oversight committee — membership — powers and duties. (1) The department shall establish a program oversight committee under the authority of the department.

(2) The committee must consist of five members as follows:

(a) the director of the department of public health and human services or the director’s designee;

(b) the director of the department of administration or the director’s designee; and

(c) three members of the general public, one of whom possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in accounting, risk management, or investment management or as an actuary one of whom has experience working on behalf of disabled individuals, and one of whom has a disability.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the governor shall appoint the public members of the committee to staggered terms of 4 years. The members are not subject to senate confirmation.

(b) The governor shall make the initial appointment of the public members as follows:

(i) one person to serve a 2-year term;

(ii) one person to serve a 3-year term; and

(iii) one person to serve a 4-year term.

(4) The committee shall select a presiding officer and a vice presiding officer from among the committee’s membership.

(5) A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business The committee shall meet at least once a year, with additional meetings called by the presiding officer.

(6) The committee:

(a) shall recommend financial institutions for approval by the department to act as the managers of accounts as provided in 53-25-112; and

(b) may submit proposed policies to the department to help implement and administer this chapter.

(7) The committee is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only, as provided in 2-15-121.

(8) Members of the committee must be compensated as provided in 2-15-124.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-106 through 53-25-108 reserved.

53-25-109. Program requirements — application — establishment of account — contributions. (1) The program must be operated through use of accounts in the trust established by designated beneficiaries. Payments to the trust for participation in the program must be made by or on behalf of designated beneficiaries pursuant to participating trust agreements. A person who wishes to participate in the program and open an account into which funds will be deposited to pay the qualified disability expenses of a designated beneficiary shall:

(a) enter into a participating trust agreement pursuant to which an account of the trust will be established;

(b) complete an application on a form prescribed by the department that includes:

(i) the name, address, and social security number of the designated beneficiary and the agent, if the agent is opening the account;

(ii) the government-issued identification of the person opening the account;

(iii) the certification relating to no excess contributions adopted by the department;

(iv) the designation of the financial institution with which the funds in the account will be invested; and

(v) any other information required by the department;

(c) pay the one-time application fee established by the department;

(d) make the minimum contribution required by the department; and

(e) designate the type of account to be opened if more than one type of account is offered.

(2) Each account must be maintained separately from each other account under the program.

(3) Separate records and accounting must be maintained for each account for each designated beneficiary.

(4) Contributions to an account are subject to the requirements of section 529A(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(b)(2), prohibiting noncash contributions and contributions in excess of the annual contribution limit.

(5) A contributor to or designated beneficiary or agent of an account may not direct the investment of any contributions to an account or the earnings generated by an account in violation of section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, and may not pledge the interest of an account or use an interest in an account as security for a loan.

(6) The financial institution shall provide statements to designated beneficiaries whose accounts are invested with the institution at least once each year within 31 days after the 12-month period to which they relate. Each statement must identify the contributions made during the preceding 12-month period, the total contributions made through the end of the period, the value of the account as of the end of the period, distributions made during the period, and any other matters that the department requires to be reported to the designated beneficiary.

(7) Statements and information returns relating to accounts must be prepared and filed to the extent required by federal or state tax law or by administrative rule.

(8) Application fees provided for in subsection (1)(c) must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department for the administration of the achieving a better life experience program.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-110. Qualified and nonqualified withdrawals — rulemaking. (1) A designated beneficiary or agent may withdraw all or part of the balance from an account under rules prescribed by the department. The rules must be used to help the department or program administrator to determine whether a withdrawal is a nonqualified withdrawal or a qualified withdrawal to the extent that the department concludes that it is necessary for the department or program administrator to make that determination.

(2) Upon the death of a designated beneficiary, any amount remaining in the account must be distributed pursuant to section 529A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(f).

(3) A designated beneficiary or agent may request a nonqualified withdrawal at any time. Nonqualified withdrawals are subject to a federal additional tax pursuant to section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A.

(4) If a distribution is made from an account to any person or for the benefit of any person during a calendar year, the distribution must be reported to the internal revenue service and to the designated beneficiary or agent to the extent required by federal law.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-111. Changes in designated beneficiary. (1) A designated beneficiary or agent may change the designated beneficiary of an account to an individual who is a member of the family of the former designated beneficiary in accordance with procedures established by the department.

(2) If requested by a designated beneficiary or agent, all or a portion of an account may be transferred through a rollover distribution to another account for which the designated beneficiary is a member of the family of the designated beneficiary of the transferee account.

(3) Changes in designated beneficiaries and rollover distributions under this section are not permitted if the changes or rollover distributions would violate:

(a) the excess contributions provisions adopted by the department; or

(b) the investment choice provisions of 53-25-112.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-112. Selection of financial institution as program manager — contract — termination. (1) The department shall implement the operation of the program through the use of one or more financial institutions to act as program manager. Under the program, a person may submit applications for enrollment in the program and participating trust agreements to a program manager and establish accounts in the trust at the location of or through the program manager. Money may be deposited into an account in the trust by paying the money to a program manager, who shall accept the money on behalf of the trust. Accounts may be invested in one or more investment products approved by the department.

(2) The committee shall solicit proposals from financial institutions to act as program managers. Financial institutions that submit proposals shall describe the investment products that they propose to offer through the program.

(3) The committee shall recommend as program manager or program managers the financial institution or institutions from among bidding financial institutions that demonstrate the most advantageous combination, both to potential program participants and to this state, of:

(a) financial stability and integrity;

(b) the safety of the investment products being offered, taking into account any insurance provided with respect to these products;

(c) the ability of the financial institution, directly or through a subcontract, to satisfy recordkeeping and reporting requirements;

(d) the financial institution's plan for promoting the program and the investment that it is willing to make to promote the program. The cost of promotional efforts may not be funded with fees imposed on designated beneficiaries or agents.

(e) the fees, if any, proposed to be charged to persons for maintaining accounts;

(f) the minimum initial deposit and minimum contributions that the financial institution will require and the willingness of the financial institution or its subcontractors to accept contributions through payroll deduction plans and other deposit plans; and

(g) any other benefits to this state or its residents contained in the proposal, including an account opening fee payable to the department by the designated beneficiary to cover operating expenses of the program and any additional fee offered by the financial institution for statewide program marketing by the department.

(4) The department shall consider the committee's recommendations and the factors provided in subsection (3) when selecting program managers.

(5) The department shall enter into a contract with a financial institution to serve as program manager or, pursuant to subsection (6), into contracts with more than one financial institution to serve as program managers. Each contract must provide the terms and conditions by which the financial institution, acting on behalf of the trust, may assist in selling interests in the trust and the manner in which funds of an account that are designated for investment with or through the financial institution will be invested.

(6) The department may select more than one financial institution to serve as program manager. The department may select more than one kind of investment product to be offered through the program. Any decision on the use of multiple financial institutions or multiple investment products must take into account:

(a) the requirements for qualifying as a qualified program under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A;

(b) the differing needs of contributors regarding risk and potential return of investment instruments; and

(c) the administrative costs and burdens that may be imposed as the result of the decision

(7) A program manager or its subcontractor shall:

(a) take action required to keep the program in compliance with its contract or the requirements of this chapter to manage the program so that it is treated as a qualified program under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A;

(b) keep adequate records of each account, keep each account segregated from each other account, and provide the department with the information necessary to prepare statements;

(c) if there is more than one program manager, provide the department with the information necessary to help the department determine compliance with rules adopted by the department and to comply with any state or federal tax reporting requirements;

(d) provide representatives of the department, including other contractors or other state agencies, access to the books and records of the program manager to the extent needed to determine compliance with the contract. At least once during the term of any contract, the department, its contractor, or the state agency responsible for examination oversight of the program manager shall conduct an examination to the extent needed to determine compliance with the contract.

(e) hold account funds invested by or through the financial institution in the name of and for the benefit of the trust and the designated beneficiary; and

(f) assist the trustee with respect to any federal or tax filing requirements relating to the program and with respect to any other obligations of the trustee.

(8) A person may not circulate a description of the program, whether in writing or through the use of any media, unless the department or its designee first approves the description.

(9) A contract executed between the department and a financial institution pursuant to this section must be for a term of at least 3 years and not more than 7 years.

(10) If the department determines not to renew the appointment of a financial institution as program manager, the department may take action consistent with the interest of the program and the accounts and in accordance with its duties as trustee of the trust. Except as provided in subsection (11), if a contract executed between the department and a financial institution pursuant to this section is not renewed, at the end of the term of the nonrenewed contract:

(a) accounts previously established through the efforts of the financial institution may not be terminated by the trustee or department and additional contributions may be made to those accounts;

(b) the funds in new accounts established after the termination may not be invested by or through the financial institution unless a new contract is executed;

(c) account funds invested by or through the financial institution must continue to be nvested in the financial products in which they were invested prior to the nonrenewal unless the designated beneficiary or agent selects a different investment product; and

(d) the continuing role of the financial institution must be governed by rules or policies established by the department or a special contract and all services provided by the financial nstitution to accounts continue to be subject to the control of the department as trustee of the trust with responsibility for all accounts in the program.

(11) (a) The department may terminate a contract with a financial institution or prohibit he continued investment of funds by or through a financial institution under subsection (10) at any time for good cause on the recommendation of the committee. If a contract is terminated or an investment is prohibited pursuant to this subsection (11), the trustee shall take custody of account funds or assets held at that financial institution and shall seek to promptly reinvest he funds or assets by or through another financial institution that is selected as a program manager by the department and into the same investment products or into investment products selected by the department that are as similar as possible to the original investments.

(b) Prior to taking the actions described in subsection (11)(a), the department shall give designated beneficiaries and agents notice of the termination and a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days, to voluntarily terminate the account invested by or through the financial nstitution or to direct that the account be invested with or through another program manager.

(c) If the termination of a program manager causes an emergency that might lead to a loss of funds to any designated beneficiary, the department or trustee may take whatever emergency action is necessary or appropriate to prevent the loss of funds invested pursuant to this chapter. After taking emergency action, the department shall provide notice and opportunity for action to designated beneficiaries as provided in subsection (11)(b).

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 433, L. 2019.**

53-25-113. Limitations. (1) This chapter may not be construed to establish state residency for a person merely because the person is a designated beneficiary.

(2) This chapter does not establish any obligation of this state or of an agency or nstrumentality of this state to guarantee for the benefit of a designated beneficiary, agent, or contributor:

(a) the return of any amounts contributed to an account;

(b) the rate of interest or other return on an account; or

(c) the payment of interest or other return on an account.

(3) Under rules adopted by the department, each contract, application, and offering or disclosure document, and any other type of document identified by the department that may be used in connection with a contribution to an account, must clearly indicate that the account is not insured by the state and that the principal deposited and any investment return are not guaranteed by the state.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 433, L. 2019.**

53-25-114 through 53-25-116 reserved.

53-25-117. Deductions for contributions. An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established pursuant to this chapter in a tax year is entitled to reduce the individual's Montana taxable income, in accordance with 15-30-2120, by the total amount of the contributions, but not more than $3,000, if the individual is:

(1) the designated beneficiary;

(2) the spouse of the designated beneficiary; or

(3) a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child related to the designated beneficiary by blood, marriage, or legal adoption.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 433, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 503, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Election to deposit refund to education savings or ABLE account, 15-30-2393.

53-25-118. Tax on certain withdrawals of deductible contributions. (1) There is a recapture tax at a rate equal to the highest rate of tax provided in 15-30-2103 on the recapturable withdrawal of amounts that were deducted from income in calculating Montana individual income taxes.

(2) For purposes of determining the portion of a recapturable withdrawal that reduced Montana individual income taxes, all withdrawals must be allocated between income and contributions in accordance with the principles applicable under section 529A(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A(c)(3). The portion of a recapturable withdrawal that is allocated to contributions must be treated as derived first from contributions, if any, that did not reduce Montana individual income taxes, to the extent of those contributions, and then to contributions that reduced Montana individual income taxes. The portion of any other withdrawal that is allocated to contributions must be treated as first derived from contributions that reduced Montana individual income taxes, to the extent of those contributions, and then to contributions that did not reduce Montana individual income taxes.

(3) (a) The recapture tax imposed by this section is payable by the designated beneficiary of the account from which the withdrawal or contribution was made. The tax liability must be reported on the designated beneficiary's income tax return and is payable with the income tax payment for the year of the withdrawal or at the time that an income tax payment would be due for the year of the withdrawal. The designated beneficiary is liable for the tax even if the designated beneficiary is not a Montana resident at the time of the withdrawal.

(b) The department of revenue may require withholding on recapturable withdrawals from an account that was at one time owned by a Montana resident if the designated beneficiary is not a Montana resident at the time of the withdrawal. For the purposes of this subsection (3)(b), amounts rolled over from an account that was at one time owned by a Montana resident must be treated as if the account is owned by a resident of Montana.

(4) For the purposes of this section, all contributions made to accounts by residents of Montana who are eligible for the deduction allowed under 53-25-117 are presumed to have reduced the contributor's Montana individual income taxes in the amount of the contribution up to the maximum allowed by law, unless the contributor can demonstrate that all or a portion of the contributions did not reduce Montana individual income taxes. Contributors who claim deductions for contributions shall report on their Montana income tax returns the amount of deductible contributions made to accounts for each designated beneficiary and the social security number of each designated beneficiary.

(5) The department of revenue shall use all means available for the administration and enforcement of income tax laws in the administration and enforcement of this section.

(6) As used in this section, "recapturable withdrawal" means a withdrawal or distribution that is a nonqualified withdrawal.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 433, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 503, L. 2021.

53-25-119. Access to records. Information that identifies the contributor, agent, or designated beneficiary of an account is exempt from the provisions of 2-6-1003 and any other provision of law permitting the public inspection or copying of documents.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-120. Account not counted as resource. Unless required by federal law or regulation, money in any account established pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 529A may not be counted as a resource in determining eligibility for an assistance program operated under Title 53 or any other federal, state, or local government means-tested program.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 436, L. 2015.

53-25-121. Achieving a better life experience savings trust. (1) There is an achieving a better life experience savings trust that is an instrumentality of the state and that is created for a public purpose. The trust consists of trust interests, with each trust interest corresponding to an account. The assets of an account may not be commingled with the assets of any other account. The assets and earnings of an account may not be used to satisfy the obligations of any other account. Each account represents a trust interest in the trust and includes amounts received by the program pursuant to the participating trust agreement and the interest and investment income earned by the trust account.

(2) The assets of the trust consist of investments and earnings on investments of funds received by the program as deposits to accounts and as amounts transferred to the trust from accounts established prior to October 1, 2015.

(3) In accordance with the instructions of the designated beneficiary or agent, the trustee shall invest funds deposited in each account in permitted investment products as provided in this chapter. The trustee or a financial institution acting on behalf of the trustee shall pay or apply funds from each account for qualified withdrawals, nonqualified withdrawals, penalties, and withholdings.

(4) A designated beneficiary or agent may execute a participating trust agreement and have funds that are held by financial institutions in accounts established prior to October 1, 2015, transferred to the trust and to the transferor's account.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 436, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 433, L. 2019.

53-25-122. Exemption from claims of creditors. (1) Except as provided in subsection 3) and 26 U.S.C. 529A, up to $100,000 of assets and earnings held in and distributions from the trust by or on behalf of a contributor or designated beneficiary of a participating trust agreement are exempt from all claims of creditors of the contributor or designated beneficiary.

(2) Subsection (1) applies to assets and earnings held in and distributions from a qualified program established as provided in section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, and maintained by another state if the contributor or designated beneficiary is a Montana resident.

(3) Assets, earnings, and distributions are not protected from claims if the contribution violates the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act provided for in Title 31, chapter 2, part 3, or 11 U.S.C. 548.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 2021.

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Chapter Cross-References

Exchange of offenders under treaty, 53-1-106.
Department of Corrections, Title 53, ch. 1, part 2.

Part 1
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Part Cross-References

Sentences for certain offenses committed in state prison, 46-18-220.

53-30-101. State prison — definition. As used in this title, unless the context indicates otherwise, "state prison" means:

(1) a state penal or correctional institution whose primary function is to provide for the custody, treatment, training, and rehabilitation of adult criminal offenders;

(2) a state penal or correctional facility portion of a Montana regional correctional facility;

(3) a detention center, a state penal facility, or a correctional facility in another jurisdiction detaining Montana inmates pursuant to 53-30-106;

(4) a private correctional facility or penal facility licensed by the department of corrections or a private correctional facility or penal facility portion of a Montana regional correctional facility licensed by the department of corrections; or

(5) a combination of the facilities listed in this section.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1901; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 651, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 624, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 505, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Disposition of contraband in correctional institution, 53-1-105.

53-30-102. Qualifications of state prison warden. The warden of a state prison must be trained through education and experience in directing a custody, treatment, training, or rehabilitation program in a penal or correctional institution.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1902; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 651, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 506, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

53-30-103. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1903.

53-30-104. Punishment of inmates. Barbarous punishments may not be prescribed for an inmate of the state prison, and an inmate, as punishment, may not be deprived of the inmate's normal provision of food while being compelled to work the usual number of hours per day.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1904; amd. Sec. 1929, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Correctional policy, 46-18-101.

53-30-105. Repealed. Secs. 12(2), 13, Ch. 372, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1905; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 588, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 372, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 507, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

53-30-106. Excessive inmate population — confinement of inmates in other institutions. (1) If the inmate population of a correctional institution or system exceeds the emergency capacity for 30 consecutive days, the director of the department of corrections may declare that the emergency capacity has been exceeded and temporarily stop admissions to the institution or system. The director shall notify each sheriff and district court that new inmates will not be accepted by the department for admission into the institution or system until the inmate population is reduced to 95% or less of the emergency capacity. Persons committed to the department and persons sought to be admitted remain in the department's legal custody but must be kept in a detention center in the jurisdiction holding them. In the event the jurisdiction holding the inmate is at maximum capacity, the inmate may be placed in an available detention center in another jurisdiction. The department shall reimburse that jurisdiction for the cost of detention for the period beyond the normal time of delivery to a correctional institution administered by the department. Reimbursement must be at a rate mutually agreeable to the department and the jurisdiction holding the person. The rate must cover the reasonable costs of the holding jurisdiction. Expenses for medication, medical services, or hospitalization for persons confined in a detention center under this section must be paid by the department.

(2) The department may enter into contracts with the federal government, other states, or the commissioners of counties that have suitable detention centers for confining inmates committed to a correctional institution or system administered by the department, either because a correctional institution or system has exceeded its emergency capacity or because the department has no institution that is adequate for certain inmates.

(3) Within budgetary limits, the department may also enter into contracts with public or private corporations for the confinement of selected inmates if suitable programs have been established.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 199, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 736, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 508, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.

53-30-107. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 120, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1909.

53-30-108. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1910.

53-30-109. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 221, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1911.

53-30-110. Expense of trial for offenses committed in prison. (1) Whenever a trial of any person takes place under any of the provisions of 45-7-306 or whenever a prisoner in the state prison is tried for any crime committed in prison, the county clerk of the county where the trial is held shall make out a statement of all the costs incurred by the county for the trial of the case and of guarding and keeping the prisoner. The statement must be certified by a district judge of the county.

(2) The statement must be sent to the department of corrections for its approval. After the approval, the department shall pay the costs out of the money appropriated for the support of the state prison to the county treasurer of the county where the trial was held.

(3) Public defender costs, if any, must be paid pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act provided for in Title 47, chapter 1.

History: En. Sec. 226, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8228, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10872, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 111; re-en. Sec. 10872, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-4209, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 80-1912 and amd. by Sec. 27, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 37, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1912; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 509, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 449, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Enumeration of county charges, 7-6-2426.

53-30-111. Clothing and money furnished on discharge or parole. The state prison shall furnish suitable clothing to a discharged or paroled inmate. An inmate discharged and delivered to the custody of the federal government or another state must receive $5. All other discharged or paroled inmates may receive "gate money" in an amount up to $100. The department of corrections may establish rules that allow it to deduct up to one-fourth of an inmate's wages earned under 53-30-132 and hold that money in a special account to be disbursed to the inmate when the inmate is discharged or paroled. This amount is in addition to the "gate money".

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 199, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1906; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 438, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 510, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1997.

Cross-References
Purchases exempt from general requirements, 18-4-133.

53-30-112 through 53-30-130 reserved.

53-30-131. Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program — purpose and scope. (1) There is a Montana correctional enterprises program within the department of corrections to operate a prison industries training program. The Montana correctional enterprises program shall:

(a) prepare inmates for release by providing vocational education training and work programs at facilities owned, operated, and contracted with by the department; and

(b) provide inmates the opportunity to earn money to pay restitution, fines, and fees, to pay for hygiene and commissary items, and to save for their eventual release from incarceration.

(2) The prison industries training program consists of vocational education, on-the-job training, and production experience. The Montana correctional enterprises program may contract with public and private educational entities to provide this training.

(3) The Montana correctional enterprises program may:

(a) provide training and experience within the prison system in:

(i) cultivation, production, processing, manufacture, repair, construction, refurbishment, service, and related processes involving personal property, including but not limited to such items as crops, milk and milk products, wood products, livestock, furniture, and office and electrical equipment;

(ii) animal training and boarding;

(iii) vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair;

(iv) wildland fire suppression; and

(v) approved community work programs for governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations;

(b) provide for the repair and maintenance of property and equipment of institutions or facilities by inmates;

(c) provide for construction projects, up to the aggregate sum of $200,000 for each project, performed by inmates. The department of administration may:

(i) exempt projects authorized by this subsection (3)(c) from the provisions of Title 18, chapter 2, relating to construction, public bidding, bonding, or contracts; and

(ii) exempt inmates who provide labor for those projects from the labor and wage requirements of Title 18, chapter 2, part 4.

(d) provide for the manufacture by prison industries of highway, road, and general information signs for the use of the state or any of its political subdivisions, except when the manufacture of the signs is in violation of a collective bargaining contract; and

(e) provide for the manufacture of motor vehicle license plates and other related articles.

(4) The Montana correctional enterprises program may provide its products and services to government agencies, school districts, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations through contracts and dealer networks. Furniture, print, and sign shop products may be sold to the general public only through dealer networks.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), furniture made in the prison may be purchased by state agencies in accordance with the procurement provisions under Title 18, chapter 4.

(6) Any state institution, facility, or program operated by the department of corrections may purchase prison-made furniture without complying with the procurement provisions under Title 18, chapter 4.

(7) The Montana correctional enterprises program may donate surplus food grown or produced at the prison to local food banks, nonprofit organizations, and low-income persons.

(8) The Montana correctional enterprises program is authorized to sell livestock on the open market.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 471, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 511, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 315, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

53-30-132. *(Temporary)* **Inmate participation and status in prison work programs — Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program — wages and benefits.** (1) Able-bodied persons committed to a state prison as adult offenders may be required to perform work as provided for by the department of corrections, including work in the Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program involving the manufacture of products or the rendering of services. In order to ensure the public safety, the department may secure inmates performing work.

(2) The Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program may:

(a) obtain federal certification, as required by federal law, of specific prison industries programs in order to gain access to interstate markets for prison industries products;

(b) print catalogs describing goods manufactured or produced by prison industries and distribute the catalogs;

(c) fix the sale price for goods produced or manufactured by prison industries. Prices may be set according to market standards and prices for goods or services of comparable quality. The price of products must include the cost of all raw materials and labor used to manufacture or produce the product.

(d) require a correctional facility to purchase needed goods and services from the Montana correctional enterprises program.

(3) The Montana correctional enterprises program may:

(a) pay an inmate from receipts from the sale of products produced or manufactured or services rendered in a program in which the inmate is working;

(b) collect 15% of the gross wages paid to an inmate employed in a federally certified prison industries program to satisfy any unpaid court-ordered obligations, including restitution on previously discharged sentences for which restitution remains owing. If the inmate's court-ordered obligations have been fully paid or no restitution was ordered, the Montana correctional enterprises program shall collect 15% of the gross wages paid to an inmate for transfer quarterly to the crime victims compensation and assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the account provided for in 53-9-113.

(c) collect charges for room and board from an inmate employed in a federally certified prison industries program. The Montana correctional enterprises program shall deposit inmates' room and board charges into its enterprise fund to help defray the cost of prison industries training programs.

(4) While engaged in on-the-job training and production, inmates not employed in a federally certified prison industries program may be paid a wage in accordance with subsection (5). Inmates employed in a federally certified prison industries program must be paid as provided in subsection (5)(b).

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), the maximum rate of pay must be determined by the appropriation established for the program, and payment for the performance of work may be based on the following criteria:

(i) knowledge and skill;

(ii) attitude toward authority;

(iii) physical effort;

(iv) responsibility for equipment and materials; and

(v) regard for safety of others.

(b) Inmates employed in a federally certified prison industries program must be paid the federal minimum wage or be paid at a rate not less than the rate paid for similar work in the locality where the inmate performs the work as determined by the federal bureau of justice.

(6) Premiums for workers' compensation and occupational disease coverage for federally certified prison industries programs must be paid by the Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program or by the department of corrections. If the department of corrections pays the premium, reimbursement for premium payments for workers' compensation and occupational disease coverage must be made to the department of corrections by the private company contracting with the federally certified prison industries program for services and products.

(7) Inmates not working in a federally certified prison industries program are not employees, either public or private, and employment rights accorded other classes of workers do not apply to the inmates. Inmates working in a federally certified prison industries program are entitled to coverage and benefits as provided in 39-71-744. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—secs. 1, 2, 3, Ch. 139, L. 2021.)*

53-30-132. *(Effective July 1, 2027)* **Inmate participation and status in prison work programs — Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program — wages and benefits.** (1) Able-bodied persons committed to a state prison as adult offenders may be required to perform work as provided for by the department of corrections, including work in the Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program involving the manufacture of products or the rendering of services. In order to ensure the public safety, the department may secure inmates performing work.

(2) The Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program may:

(a) obtain federal certification, as required by federal law, of specific prison industries programs in order to gain access to interstate markets for prison industries products;

(b) print catalogs describing goods manufactured or produced by prison industries and distribute the catalogs;

(c) fix the sale price for goods produced or manufactured by prison industries. Prices may be set according to market standards and prices for goods or services of comparable quality. The price of products must include the cost of all raw materials and labor used to manufacture or produce the product.

(d) require a correctional facility to purchase needed goods and services from the Montana correctional enterprises program.

(3) The Montana correctional enterprises program may:

(a) pay an inmate from receipts from the sale of products produced or manufactured or services rendered in a program in which the inmate is working;

(b) collect 15% of the gross wages paid to an inmate employed in a federally certified prison industries program to satisfy any unpaid court-ordered obligations, including restitution on previously discharged sentences for which restitution remains owing. If the inmate's court-ordered obligations have been fully paid or no restitution was ordered, the Montana correctional enterprises program shall collect 15% of the gross wages paid to an inmate for transfer quarterly to the crime victims compensation and assistance program in the department of justice for deposit in the state general fund as provided in Title 53, chapter 9, part 1.

(c) collect charges for room and board from an inmate employed in a federally certified prison industries program. The Montana correctional enterprises program shall deposit inmates' room and board charges into its enterprise fund to help defray the cost of prison industries training programs.

(4) While engaged in on-the-job training and production, inmates not employed in a federally certified prison industries program may be paid a wage in accordance with subsection (5). Inmates employed in a federally certified prison industries program must be paid as provided in subsection (5)(b).

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), the maximum rate of pay must be determined by the appropriation established for the program, and payment for the performance of work may be based on the following criteria:

(i) knowledge and skill;

(ii) attitude toward authority;

(iii) physical effort;

(iv) responsibility for equipment and materials; and

(v) regard for safety of others.

(b) Inmates employed in a federally certified prison industries program must be paid the federal minimum wage or be paid at a rate not less than the rate paid for similar work in the locality where the inmate performs the work as determined by the federal bureau of justice.

(6) Premiums for workers' compensation and occupational disease coverage for federally certified prison industries programs must be paid by the Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program or by the department of corrections. If the department of corrections pays the premium, reimbursement for premium payments for workers' compensation and occupational disease coverage must be made to the department of corrections by the private company contracting with the federally certified prison industries program for services and products.

(7) Inmates not working in a federally certified prison industries program are not employees, either public or private, and employment rights accorded other classes of workers do not apply to the inmates. Inmates working in a federally certified prison industries program are entitled to coverage and benefits as provided in 39-71-744.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 471, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 372, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 512, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 315, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 513, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 118, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 272, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 312, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 374, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Employment rights, Title 39, ch. 2.

53-30-133. Administration of Montana correctional enterprises program. (1) (a) The Montana correctional enterprises program need not be a self-supporting program. All revenue raised through the program may be used only for the program, including the payment of inmate wages.

(b) State agencies, local governments, school districts, authorities, and other local government entities are encouraged to use the Montana correctional enterprises program's products and services. State agencies shall cooperate with the department of corrections in notifying governmental entities within the state of the program and of the services and products that are available.

(2) (a) Any price lists established by the department are exempt from the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, but the department may, if it considers it an effective method of dissemination, publish the price lists.

(b) The Montana correctional enterprises program is subject to program audits by the legislative auditor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 471, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 513, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 312, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Legislative Audit Act, Title 5, ch. 13.

53-30-134. Montana correctional enterprises license plate production operating account. (1) There is a license plate production operating account of the enterprise fund type, as provided in 17-2-102.

(2) All payments received by the Montana correctional enterprises program under a contract related to the manufacture of license plates, products and services provided for pursuant to 53-30-131 through 53-30-133, and fees paid under 61-3-478 must be deposited in the account.

(3) The money in the license plate production operating account must be used by Montana correctional enterprises for the operation and enhancement of its inmate training and license plate manufacturing enterprise.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

53-30-135 through 53-30-140 reserved.

53-30-141. Extension of limits of confinement. (1) The department of corrections may extend the limits of confinement of the state prison in Deer Lodge for purposes of housing outside the prison fence inmates who:

(a) are employed in ranch or agricultural industry programs; and

(b) have demonstrated sufficient reliability and trustworthiness.

(2) Housing units outside the confines of the prison fence may be created by renovation of existing buildings or by the erection of modular-type units and associated facilities on the prison ranch.

(3) For the purpose of expediting the acquisition and construction of housing units authorized in subsection (2) the department of administration may exempt the project from provisions of Montana law relating to the employment of architects, advertising, labor, and wages. The department of administration need not comply with any state bidding requirements that would preclude a sole source purchase.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 6, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 514, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 339, L. 2021.

Cross-References

State construction contracts — architects, advertising, labor, and wages, Title 18, ch. 2.

53-30-142. Escape from extended confinement. Purposeful or knowing failure of an inmate to remain within the extended limits of confinement or to return within the time prescribed by prison officials to the place of confinement designated by the department is an escape punishable as provided in 45-7-306.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 6, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 1930, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

53-30-143 through 53-30-150 reserved.

53-30-151. Prison maintenance by inmates. An inmate of a state prison may be required to:

(1) keep the living quarters assigned to that inmate clean and orderly;

(2) perform general maintenance and repair work on prison grounds and facilities and assist in providing services essential to the administration of the prison, including but not limited to food and laundry services.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, Sp. L. 1982; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 491, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Use of inmate labor — not bargainable in collective bargaining agreement, 39-31-312.

53-30-152. Inmates not employees. An inmate working pursuant to 53-30-151 is not an employee, either public or private, and employment rights accorded other classes of workers do not apply to such inmates.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, Sp. L. 1982.**

Cross-References

Employment rights, Title 39, ch. 2.

53-30-153. *(Temporary)* **Telephone account requirements for state prisons — protected accounts — disclosure required — rulemaking — definitions.** (1) A state prison that contracts with a telecommunications service provider to provide telecommunications services for inmates shall, to the extent feasible, contract with a telecommunications service provider to provide communications services for inmates that:

(a) provides public safety precautions required by the department of corrections;

(b) prohibits expiration of prepaid minutes or charges;

(c) does not charge additional usage or dormancy fees;

(d) does not charge excessive intrastate fees that are greater than 10 cents a minute;

(e) does not require monthly usage fees; and

(f) allows rollover of unused, prepaid minutes into the next month unless the inmate for whom the account was set up is no longer able to use the telephone account, whether for disciplinary reasons or other reasons specified by department rule. No refund is required for unexpired minutes subject to this subsection (1)(f).

(2) Every contract entered into by a state prison for communications services under subsection (1) must require the telecommunications service provider to notify the purchaser of a prepaid telephone account of any fees or refunds that are available for unused minutes on a prepaid telephone card and mail the refund to the purchaser's address of record.

(3) The department of corrections has rulemaking authority to implement this section and shall notify the public service commission of the allowable rate that a telecommunications service provider may charge for intrastate calls under contract with the department of corrections.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Prepaid telephone account" means a system, whether purchased as a calling card or set up as an account with a telecommunications service provider, to provide telephonic connections in which the purchaser pays for minutes prior to use. The term does not include a lifeline account, defined under 47 CFR 54.401, for which a telecommunications carrier receives universal service support.

(b) "State prison" has the meaning provided in 53-30-101(3)(c)(i) through (3)(c)(iii) and (3)(c)(v).

(c) "Telecommunications service provider" has the meaning provided for "operator service provider" in 69-3-1102.

53-30-153. *(Effective April 30, 2024)* **Telephone account requirements for state prisons — protected accounts — disclosure required — rulemaking — definitions.** (1) A state prison that contracts with a telecommunications service provider to provide telecommunications services for inmates shall contract with a telecommunications service provider to provide communications services for inmates that:

(a) provides public safety precautions required by the department of corrections;

(b) prohibits expiration of prepaid minutes or charges;

(c) does not charge additional usage or dormancy fees;

(d) does not charge excessive intrastate fees that are greater than 10 cents a minute;

(e) does not include ancillary service fees, including prepaid telephone cards, collect calls, and single pay calls that total more than 3% of the base charge; and

(f) allows rollover of unused, prepaid minutes into the next month unless the inmate for whom the account was set up is no longer able to use the telephone account, whether for disciplinary reasons or other reasons specified by department rule. No refund is required for unexpired minutes subject to this subsection (1)(f).

(2) Every contract entered into by a state prison for communications services under subsection (1) must require the telecommunications service provider to notify the purchaser of a prepaid telephone account of any fees or refunds that are available for unused minutes on a prepaid telephone card and mail the refund to the purchaser's address of record.

(3) The department of corrections has rulemaking authority to implement this section and shall notify the public service commission of the allowable rate that a telecommunications service provider may charge for intrastate calls under contract with the department of corrections.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Prepaid telephone account" means a system, whether purchased as a calling card or set up as an account with a telecommunications service provider, to provide telephonic connections in which the purchaser pays for minutes prior to use. The term does not include a lifeline account, defined under 47 CFR 54.401, for which a telecommunications carrier receives universal service support.

(b) "State prison" has the meaning provided in 53-30-101(3)(c)(i) through (3)(c)(iii) and (3)(c)(v).

(c) "Telecommunications service provider" has the meaning provided for "operator service provider" in 69-3-1102.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 30, 2024.

53-30-154. Dog obedience training and socialization program — eligibility — administration — fees. (1) There is a dog obedience training and socialization program at the Montana state prison or any other state-owned or contracted prison facility for the purpose of promoting the well-being of inmates and increasing the adoptability of rescue dogs in the state. The program shall:

(a) partner with local organizations to source rescue dogs from within the state that are in need of basic obedience training and socialization and that meet the requirements of subsection (3);

(b) develop and follow policies and procedures that promote and protect the safety of inmates and dogs; and

(c) engage eligible inmates, under the direction of at least one certified professional dog trainer, in the training and socialization of the rescue dogs using current best practices.

(2) To be eligible to participate in the program, an inmate must:

(a) have no record of animal cruelty;

(b) be in compliance with required treatment; and

(c) meet any additional requirements prescribed by the department pursuant to subsection (5).

(3) To be eligible to participate in the program, a dog:

(a) must have current rabies and bordetella vaccines;

(b) must be in generally good health;

(c) may not pose an obvious risk to inmates and other dogs; and

(d) must meet any additional requirements prescribed by the department pursuant to subsection (5).

(4) The department may offer the dog obedience training and socialization program to members of the public and may set and charge a fee to a member of the public for the dog obedience training and socialization program.

(5) The department shall develop policies and procedures for the administration of the program, including eligibility criteria for inmates and dogs.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 766, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 766, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective October 1, 2023."

Codification Change: Section 2, Ch. 766, L. 2023, provided that this section was to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 23. The Code Commissioner has codified this section in Title 53, chapter 30, part 1, to more closely reflect the subject matter.

Part 2
Youthful Offenders
(Renumbered and Repealed)

53-30-201. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 361, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 320, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 80-1704.

53-30-202. Renumbered 52-5-101. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-203. Renumbered 52-5-102. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-204. Renumbered 52-5-103. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-205. Renumbered 52-5-104. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-206. Renumbered 52-5-105. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-207. Renumbered 52-5-106. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-208. Renumbered 52-5-107. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-209. Renumbered 52-5-108. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-210. Renumbered 52-5-109. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-211. Renumbered 52-5-110. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-212. Renumbered 52-5-111. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-213. Renumbered 52-5-112. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-214. Renumbered 52-5-113. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-215. Renumbered 52-5-114. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-216 through 53-30-224 reserved.

53-30-225. Renumbered 52-5-125. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-226. Renumbered 52-5-126. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-227. Renumbered 52-5-127. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-228. Renumbered 52-5-128. Code Commissioner, 1991.

53-30-229. Renumbered 52-5-129. Code Commissioner, 1991.

Part 3
Community Corrections Act

53-30-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Community Corrections Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1991.

53-30-302. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to:

(1) encourage the development of community corrections facilities and programs by units of local government, tribal governments, and nongovernmental agencies;

(2) reduce court commitments to the state prisons through diversion of offenders determined appropriate by the community corrections board to community corrections facilities and programs;

(3) reduce the use of jail space for offenders who need a structured environment, treatment, counseling, and supervision but who may not require incarceration;

(4) provide a local facility for employed offenders so that they may maintain their employment under a structured environment and receive treatment, counseling, and supervision;

(5) provide a procedure by which units of local government, tribal governments, and nongovernmental agencies may provide corrections services to the sentencing courts; and

(6) include citizen participation in the policymaking and program planning related to community corrections facilities and programs through the formation of local community corrections boards.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Correctional policy, 46-18-101.

53-30-303. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community corrections board" means a community corrections board as provided in 53-30-312.

(2) "Community corrections facility or program" means a community-based or community-oriented facility or program, other than a jail, that:

(a) is established by a local or tribal government and operated by a unit of local government, a tribal government, or a nongovernmental agency; and

(b) provides programs and services to aid offenders in:

(i) obtaining and holding regular employment;

(ii) enrolling in and maintaining academic courses;

(iii) participating in vocational training programs;

(iv) utilizing the resources of the community to meet their personal and family needs;

(v) obtaining the benefits of specialized treatment services that exist within the community; and

(vi) paying restitution or performing community restitution to crime victims.

(3) "Department" means the department of corrections created in 2-15-2301.

(4) "Nongovernmental agency" means a person, private, nonprofit agency, corporation, association, labor organization, or other nongovernmental entity.

(5) "Offender" means a person who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or has been convicted of a criminal offense.

(6) "Tribal government" means a federally recognized Indian tribe within the state of Montana.

(7) "Unit of local government" means a county, city, town, or city-county consolidated government.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 515, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 322, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 395, L. 1999.

53-30-304 through 53-30-310 reserved.

53-30-311. Community corrections facilities and programs operated by units of local government. (1) A unit of local government may establish, maintain, and operate any community corrections facilities and programs that it considers necessary to serve its own needs or the needs of offenders who are sentenced to the facility or program by a judge as provided in 53-30-321.

(2) A unit of local government may enter into a contract or agreement with the department for the purpose of providing community corrections facilities and programs for offenders.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 554, L. 1991.

53-30-312. Creation of community corrections boards — membership — appointment — terms — compensation. (1) A unit of local government, the governing bodies of two or more units of local government, or a tribal government may establish a community corrections board.

(2) A community corrections board consists of three to seven members, must, when possible, be gender-balanced and have racial parity, and must include:

(a) one local law enforcement officer;

(b) one probation and parole officer; and

(c) one member of the public.

(3) Members of a community corrections board must be appointed by the chief executive officer of the unit of local government or the tribal government in the judicial district in which community corrections facilities or programs are established.

(4) Members of a community corrections board shall serve for a term of 4 years.

(5) Members of a community corrections board shall serve without compensation except as otherwise decided by the units of local government or a tribal government.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

53-30-313. Powers and duties of community corrections boards. (1) A community corrections board may establish and enforce standards for:

(a) the operation of community corrections facilities and programs operated by the unit of ocal government or a tribal government served by the community corrections board; and

(b) the conduct of offenders placed in local community corrections facilities and programs.

(2) The community corrections board, together with the judicial district, shall establish procedures for screening offenders who are to be placed in the community corrections facility or program. The screening must take into account the aptitude, attitude, and social and occupational skills of the offender and the risk of harm the offender may present to the offender and others.

(3) A community corrections board may accept, reject, or reject after acceptance the placement of any offender in the community corrections facility or program. If an offender is rejected by the community corrections board after initial acceptance, the sheriff of the county n which the facility or program is located must take custody of the offender. The community corrections board shall notify in writing the sentencing judge who, after considering the board's reasons for rejection, shall appropriately modify the sentencing order.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

53-30-314. Community corrections facilities and programs operated by tribal governments. (1) A tribal government may establish, maintain, and operate a community corrections facility or program to serve the needs of offenders who are sentenced to the facility or program by a judge as provided in 53-30-321.

(2) A tribal government operating a community corrections facility or program may accept, reject, or reject after acceptance the placement of any offender in the facility or program pursuant to an agreement with a unit of local government, a nongovernmental agency, or a udicial district. If an offender is rejected by the tribal government after initial appearance and the offender is a court referral, the sheriff of the county in which the facility or program is located must take custody of the offender. The tribal government shall notify in writing the sentencing judge who, after considering the tribal government's reasons for rejection, shall appropriately modify the sentencing order.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

53-30-315. Community corrections facilities and programs operated by nongovernmental agencies. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a nongovernmental agency may establish, maintain, and operate a community corrections facility or program to serve the needs of offenders who are sentenced to the facility or program by a judge as provided in 53-30-321.

(2) A nongovernmental agency may not establish a community corrections facility or program unless approved by the local community corrections board in a local government or tribal government that has established a community corrections board.

(3) A nongovernmental agency operating a community corrections facility or program may accept, reject, or reject after acceptance the placement of any offender in the facility or program pursuant to a contract or agreement with a unit of local government, a tribal government or a judicial district. If an offender is rejected by the nongovernmental agency after initia acceptance and the offender is a court referral, the sheriff of the county in which the facility or program is located must take custody of the offender. The nongovernmental agency shall notify in writing the sentencing judge who, after considering the agency's reasons for rejection, shal appropriately modify the sentencing order.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

53-30-316 through 53-30-320 reserved.

53-30-321. Authority of judge to utilize community corrections facilities or programs — restrictions. (1) Subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (2), a judge may order placement of an offender in a community corrections facility or program operated by a unit of local government, a tribal government, or a nongovernmental agency.

(2) A judge may not order placement of an offender in a residential community corrections facility or program for a period exceeding 1 year. After completing the residential community corrections portion of a sentence, an offender shall serve the remainder of the sentence under normal probation supervision, if applicable.

(3) An offender is not eligible for parole while serving a sentence in a community corrections facility or program.

(4) The probation and parole officers for the judicial district shall include in their presentence report to the sentencing judge recommendations for utilization of a community correctional facility or program that has been approved for use by the judicial district.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Form of sentence, Title 46, ch. 18, part 2.
Sentences that may be imposed, 46-18-201.

53-30-322. Powers and responsibilities of department. The department may:

(1) upon the request of a local community corrections board, provide assistance in the planning of community corrections facilities and programs; and

(2) contract with a community corrections facility or program for the provision of services for offenders under the custody of the department. The contract must address facility or program review and evaluation, accounting and reporting standards, and reimbursement of the facility or program.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-30-323. Offender payments. (1) An offender placed in a community corrections facility or program under this part shall execute a written contract or agreement with the director or the facility or program, setting forth the terms and conditions for placement in the facility or program. The contract or agreement must provide that a portion of any money received from employment of the offender be set aside for reimbursement to the community corrections facility Reimbursement to the community corrections facility or program for the cost of the room, board and services is to be paid at a rate established under 53-1-501.

(2) In a community corrections facility or program, the offender has the primary obligation to obtain employment, but the department of labor and industry shall provide assistance to the offender in obtaining suitable employment.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1993.

53-30-324. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 554, L. 1991.

53-30-325. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 322, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 554, L. 1991.

53-30-326. Escape from custody. An offender is guilty of escape and shall be punished as provided in 45-7-306 if, without proper authorization, the offender:

(1) fails to remain within the extended limits of the offender's confinement or fails to eturn within the time specified to a community corrections facility or program to which the ffender has been assigned, sentenced, or transferred; or

(2) leaves the offender's place of employment or neglects or fails to return to the community orrections facility or program after being specifically ordered to do so.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 322, L. 1997.**

Part 4
Boot Camp Incarceration Program (Repealed)

53-30-401. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 516, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 505, L. 1999.**

53-30-402. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 463, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 386, L. 2003.**

53-30-403. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 463, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 505, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. , Ch. 78, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 114, L. 2003.**

Part 5
Regional Correctional Facility Act

53-30-501. Short title. This part may be known and cited as the "Regional Correctional acility Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1995.**

53-30-502. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to provide a method by which the state nd local governments can make the most efficient use of their powers and resources by enabling hem to cooperate to fulfill their respective responsibilities of providing services and facilities or the incarceration and rehabilitation of criminal offenders at regional correctional facilities. The state and local governments are encouraged to use innovative means in accomplishing this urpose.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 316, L. 1995.**

53-30-503. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Corporation" means an entity organized and existing pursuant to Title 35, chapter 1 r 2, and approved or designated by a local governmental entity.

(2) "Department" means the department of corrections.

(3) "Interlocal cooperation commission" means a commission established in accordance ith Title 7, chapter 11, part 2.

(4) "Local governmental entity" means:

(a) a local governmental unit;

(b) a multijurisdictional service district; or

(c) an interlocal cooperation commission.

(5) "Multijurisdictional service district" means a district established in accordance with itle 7, chapter 11, part 10.

(6) "Regional correctional facility" means a facility for the housing of persons charged with r convicted of a criminal offense that is a joint detention center and correctional facility and hat is designed, constructed, or operated under this part by a local governmental entity, a orporation, the department, or any combination of a local governmental entity, a corporation, nd the department.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 286, L. 2009.**

53-30-504. Authority to enter into contracts — terms — financing. (1) The epartment may contract with one or more local governmental entities or corporations for the ousing of and provision of services to inmates sentenced to the department or the department's orrectional institutions at a regional correctional facility designed, financed, constructed, or operated by a local governmental entity, a corporation, the department, or any combination of a local governmental entity, a corporation, and the department.

(2) The contract must be authorized and approved by the governor, the department, and the governing body of the local governmental entity or the corporation, whichever is party to the contract. The contract must set forth fully the purposes, powers, rights, and responsibilities of each party to the contract and address necessary and proper matters set forth in 7-11-105.

(3) A contract may include an agreement to jointly design, finance, construct, and operate a regional correctional facility.

(4) The department may not enter into a contract unless the department and the local governmental entity or corporation has the legal authority and the ability to finance its share of the costs under the contract.

(5) A regional correctional facility may be constructed on real property that is owned by the state of Montana, a local governmental entity, or a corporation or that is jointly owned.

(6) The proceeds of long-range building program general obligation bonds authorized to be issued in accordance with Title 17, chapter 5, part 8, may be used, in whole or in part, to construct a regional correctional facility that may be owned and operated by a local governmental entity, whether or not the facility or any part of it is to be owned and operated by the state. If the proceeds of long-range building program general obligation bonds or other state revenue is to be used in whole or in part to construct a regional correctional facility that is to be owned and operated by a local governmental entity, the department of administration is not required to procure the design, engineering, or construction services for the facility. The contract may provide that the local governmental entity shall procure the services, but must also provide that the department of administration must be involved in the development and approval of the plans and specifications for the facility prior to the time the facility is let to bid.

(7) The department shall use the proceeds of long-range building program bonds and other state revenue appropriated for regional correctional facilities to negotiate with local governmental entities, corporations, or private providers to obtain the greatest number of beds that is consistent with program objectives for the least cost to the state.

(8) An individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other private organization or entity may not construct a regional correctional facility in this state, if privately operated or privately owned and operated, unless authorized by the department.

(9) An individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other private organization or entity may not operate a regional correctional facility in this state unless licensed by the department. A license is nontransferable.

(10) A regional correctional facility may house persons who are charged or convicted in this state, another state, or federal court in the detention center portion of a regional correctiona facility. A person charged or convicted in another state or charged or convicted in federal court in another state may not be confined in a state correctional facility portion of a regional correctiona facility in this state unless the confinement is under and governed by Title 46, chapter 19, part 3 or 4, and the department authorizes the placement of the person in the state correctional facility portion of the regional correctional facility.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 491, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Acquisition, transfer, and management of property and buildings, Title 7, ch. 8.
Public construction contracts, Title 18, ch. 2.

53-30-505. Contract time limit. A contract entered into under 53-30-504 may not exceed a term of 30 years and must contain provisions for renegotiation after 30 years. The provisions of 18-4-313 that limit the term of a contract do not apply to a contract authorized by 53-30-504.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 1997.**

53-30-506. Local governmental entity option to purchase facility owned by state If, under a contract entered into under 53-30-504, the state constructs and owns a regiona correctional facility, the contract may provide an option for the local governmental entity o corporation to purchase the facility.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 224, L. 1997.**

53-30-507. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department may adopt rules to implement his part, including rules for the determination of how sites are to be chosen for regional orrectional facilities. The rules must provide that in selecting a site, the department shall onsider the need for a regional correctional facility in the area, the ability and willingness f a local governmental entity or a corporation to enter into a long-term contract with the lepartment, and the availability of rehabilitative services to inmates. The rules must require hat a corporation respond to a request for proposals prepared by the department for a regional orrectional facility before a contract may be entered with that corporation.

(2) The department shall adopt rules that include the minimum applicable standards for he construction, operation, and physical condition of a state correctional facility portion of a egional correctional facility and for the security, safety, health, treatment, and discipline of ersons confined in a state correctional facility portion of a regional correctional facility. The ules must require that a privately operated or privately owned and operated state correctional acility portion of a regional correctional facility conform to applicable American correctional ssociation and national commission on correctional health care standards.

(3) (a) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, that specify a per liem rate that must be paid to a regional correctional facility for the confinement of persons in he state correctional facility portion of the regional correctional facility.

(b) The rules adopted pursuant to subsection (3)(a) must include but are not limited to:

(i) a definition of per diem rate;

(ii) a method of calculating the per diem rate; and

(iii) the costs to be included in the per diem rate calculation.

(c) At a minimum, the per diem rate must include compensation for:

(i) direct costs, including budget expenditures directly attributable to confining inmates;

(ii) indirect costs, including budget expenditures that are not directly associated with he confinement of inmates but that are incurred to provide support services for the regional orrectional facility, not to exceed 3% annually;

(iii) capital costs, limited to the following use allowances:

(A) for buildings and improvements, not to exceed 2.5% of acquisition cost for no more than 0 years; and

(B) for equipment with an individual acquisition cost of $5,000 or more, not to exceed 6⅔% f acquisition cost for no more than 15 years; and

(iv) other costs that the department determines are necessary, including medical or ransportation costs.

(d) The department shall determine by rule the costs that are not allowable as part of per diem rate. Unallowable costs must include programs and services that do not have a lirect benefit to persons confined in the regional correctional facility and depreciation for capital mprovements paid for by the department and depreciation for equipment used in providing upport services.

(e) A population factor must be included in the per diem rate to allow for accurate ompensation based on the number of inmates confined in the regional correctional facility.

(f) The rules must provide for billing procedures and must allow for review of the per liem rate at least once each fiscal year. When reviewing the per diem rate, the department hall accept public comment that must be considered when the department is determining the ccuracy of the per diem rate for the next fiscal year.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2019, the regional correctional facility and the department must nutually agree on any personal services increases or nonroutine purchases exceeding a total of 5,000 in a fiscal year.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 316, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 224, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. , Ch. 551, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 456, L. 2019.

ross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-30-508 through 53-30-510 reserved.

53-30-511. Local governmental entity authorized to enter into long-term contracts nd to incur indebtedness — noncompetition clause. (1) A local governmental entity may nter into a long-term lease or agreement, not to exceed a term of 30 years, with a corporation proposing to operate a regional detention facility under this part. The local governmental entity may agree in the long-term lease or agreement to acquire the facility from the corporation through a lease or a lease option to purchase, subject to the limitations of Title 7, chapter 7, part 21.

(2) A contract may also contain a covenant by the local governmental entity that if the contract is terminated for nonappropriation of funds by the local governmental entity, the local governmental entity agrees not to purchase, lease, or rent property to perform the functions performed by the corporation and agrees not to permit the functions to be performed by its own employees or by any local governmental entity for a specified period of not less than 1 year and not more than the remaining original term of the contract.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 224, L. 1997.

Part 6
Private Correctional Facilities

53-30-601. Policy. It is the policy of the state of Montana to encourage innovative methods to provide the correctional resources necessary to confine persons convicted of crimes. The state recognizes that there may be benefits to confining convicted persons in private correctional facilities operated consistently with public policy.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 1997.

53-30-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301.

(2) (a) "Private correctional facility" means a correctional facility that is either privately operated or privately owned and operated.

(b) The term does not include a private detention center or a regional jail governed by Title 7, chapter 32, part 22.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 1999.

53-30-603. Private correctional facilities — confinable persons. (1) An individual corporation, partnership, association, or other private organization or entity may not construct a private correctional facility in this state unless authorized by the department.

(2) An individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other private organization or entity may not operate a private correctional facility in this state unless licensed by the department. A license is nontransferable.

(3) A person convicted in any state or U.S. federal court may be confined in a private correctional facility in this state pursuant to approval by the department of a written agreement between the originating jurisdiction and the private correctional facility if the person is at all times and in all places within the correctional facility kept physically separated from persons convicted in this state. The agreement must include provisions for returning an out-of-state inmate to the originating jurisdiction prior to the inmate's parole or release.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 511, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 491, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2003.

53-30-604. Department duties and responsibilities — rulemaking authority (1) (a) The department shall adopt administrative rules that include the minimum applicable standards for the siting, construction, operation, and physical condition of a private correctional facility and for the security, safety, health, treatment, and discipline of persons confined in a private correctional facility.

(b) The administrative rules must require that a private correctional facility conform to applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards for the facility and achieve accreditation from the American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care within 3 years from the date the facility begins operation.

(c) The administrative rules must provide for review and approval of facility design and construction by the department of administration.

(2) Within 90 days of May 2, 1997, and on a biennial basis, the department shall publish a description of the long-range correctional needs, objectives, and goals of the department and the state.

(3) The department shall at least annually inspect each private correctional facility to letermine compliance with this part, applicable American correctional association and national ommission on correctional health care standards, department rules, and contract requirements.

(4) The department shall present a report of compliance inspections to the legislature in ccordance with 5-11-210.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 511, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

ross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

53-30-605. Requirements of request for proposals. (1) Prior to contracting for services vith a private correctional facility, the department shall publish a request for proposals. The equest for proposals must include a description of the long-range correctional needs, objectives, nd goals of the department and the state.

(2) The request for proposals must include and identify the services requested and required nd other information, including but not limited to:

(a) the physical plant, facility, and perimeter, including:

(i) the facility capacity and inmate population, including classification levels accepted;

(ii) inmate housing; and

(iii) security, safety, and emergency procedures;

(b) who is responsible for transportation of inmates:

(i) among facilities;

(ii) upon an inmate's release, including discharge or parole;

(iii) for court and administrative proceedings such as parole hearings and inmate articipation as a witness;

(iv) for medical transportation; and

(v) for security;

(c) administration of the facility, including but not limited to:

(i) the organizational structure and staffing; and

(ii) a policy and procedures manual addressing:

(A) inmate discipline;

(B) incident reporting;

(C) grievance procedures;

(D) searches;

(E) drug testing;

(F) monitoring of facility standards; and

(G) the retention and maintenance of inmate and facility records by the private correctional acility;

(d) staffing issues regarding:

(i) management;

(ii) security;

(iii) administrative personnel;

(iv) qualifications and requirements;

(v) training; and

(vi) staff-to-inmate ratios;

(e) inmate needs such as food, clothing, sanitation, hygiene, and laundry;

(f) programs and services to be required such as vocational and educational training, eligious services or customs, counseling, recreation, and canteen;

(g) medical, dental, optical, pharmaceutical, psychological, and other medical-related care;

(h) insurance requirements;

(i) indemnification;

(j) a performance bond that is sufficient to protect the state from damages upon default or onperformance and that may not exceed the biennial amount of the compensation to be paid to he contractor;

(k) a requirement that proposers provide evidence or documentation demonstrating an bility to provide the services, to comply with acceptable services, and to comply with the rules, egulations, and contract requirements;

(l) a requirement that proposers provide documentation of financial stability or security; and

(m) monitoring of facility operations.

(3) The department may release separate requests for proposals or contracts for specific services such as transportation of inmates and medical, dental, vision, and sick call services. Each contract must include a detailed explanation of the services that must be provided.

(4) The department shall maintain a list of qualified applicants and all proposal responses. The department shall retain all records related to the evaluation process and the awarding of a contract.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 511, L. 1997.**

53-30-606. License — inspection. (1) The department shall grant a license to a private correctional facility determined by the department to conform to this part and department rules.

(2) The department may grant a temporary license for 1 year to a facility that loses accreditation if the department determines that the facility is making satisfactory progress toward substantial conformity with this part, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, as determined by the department by administrative rule, department rules, and contract requirements and that the interests and well-being of the residents of the state and of the persons to be confined in the facility are protected. A temporary license may not be renewed.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department may not grant a license unless the contractor conforms to all state and federal statutes, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, as determined by the department by administrative rule, department rules, and other requirements as defined in administrative rule. During the initial 3-year period of a contract, a private correctional facility is not required to be accredited by the American correctional association or the national commission on correctional health care in order to be granted a license by the department.

(4) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless the department determines that the facility conforms to the long-range correctional needs, objectives, and goals of the department and state.

(5) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility until the owner or operator of the facility has provided the department with proof of indemnity insurance that appropriately indemnifies the state and that is acceptable to the department.

(6) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless the facility is constructed in accordance with American correctional association facility construction requirements. In addition, the private correctional facility shall comply with any other applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations.

(7) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless the facility has promulgated a policy to provide reasonable access to the facility by representatives of the public media.

(8) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless the facility has entered into an agreement with local and state law enforcement authorities. The private correctional facility shall demonstrate an adequate response for the mutual aid, assistance, and notification in the event of an escape, riot or disturbance, natural or human-caused event, or other act that may potentially affect public safety.

(9) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless the legislature has appropriated funds for the housing of state inmates in private correctional facilities.

(10) The department shall at least annually inspect each private correctional facility to determine compliance with this part and department rules.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 511, L. 1997.**

53-30-607. Licensure limitations — siting of private correctional facilities. (1) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility located within 1 mile of a public or nonpublic school, not including a home school. However, if a public or nonpublic school is established after a facility has been approved, the department may not prevent the private correctional facility from operating because of this subsection (1).

(2) The department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless there has been a public hearing in the county in which the private correctional facility is to be located and unless the county commissioners approve the location of the private correctional facility by a majority vote. If the proposed facility is to be located within the limits of a municipality, the department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless there has been a public hearing in the municipality and the local governing body approves the location of the private correctional facility by a majority vote.

(3) If the siting of a private correctional facility is proposed within 7½ miles of an adjacent county or if the department determines that there are reasonable expectations that the siting may have a significant impact on an adjacent county, the department may not grant a license to a private correctional facility unless there has been a public hearing in the adjacent county and unless the concerns of the adjacent county have been considered.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 511, L. 1997.**

53-30-608. Contracts with owners or operators of private correctional facilities. (1) Upon request of the legislative audit committee, the legislative audit division shall review the procedures by which a contract was awarded and shall review each contract prior to execution to determine if the contract includes the requirements provided in this part.

(2) A contract with an owner or operator of a private correctional facility must be awarded to the contractor who best meets the needs of the state and the department and demonstrates the capability of providing services requested.

(3) A contract must specify the type and level of services to be provided by the contractor. The contract must provide that a private contractor may not:

(a) choose the correctional facility to which an inmate is initially or subsequently assigned. A contractor may request the department to transfer an inmate to a state facility or to another private correctional facility.

(b) develop or adopt disciplinary rules that differ from the disciplinary rules, penalties, and policies of the department;

(c) make a decision that affects the sentence imposed on an inmate or the time served by an inmate;

(d) make recommendations to the board of pardons and parole with respect to the denial or granting of parole or release, except to submit reports to the board of pardons and parole and to respond to requests by the department or the board of pardons and parole;

(e) develop or implement requirements that inmates engage in any type of work, except to the extent that those requirements are accepted by the department;

(f) determine inmate eligibility for any form of release from a correctional facility; or

(g) use an inmate classification system unless it is approved by the department.

(4) Contracts may not exceed a term of 30 years and must contain provisions for renegotiation after 30 years. The provisions of 18-4-313 that limit the term of a contract do not apply to a contract authorized by this section.

(5) The contract must specify that the private correctional facility shall grant access to the legislative audit division or a person contracting with the legislative audit division for compliance auditing. The contractor shall provide access to all areas of the facility and to all records maintained onsite or offsite that pertain to all aspects of the facility, including but not limited to operation, financial, and inmate records.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 511, L. 1997.**

53-30-609. Contractor costs responsibility. (1) The contractor is responsible for costs incurred by the state or any political subdivision of the state for legal costs relating to escapes, riots or disturbances, or other natural or human-caused events that occur at the facility because of the contractor's negligence, errors, omissions, intentional acts, or failure to comply with the terms of the contract.

(2) The contractor is responsible for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the state or a political subdivision of the state for defense of causes of action brought by or on behalf of an inmate that accrue while an inmate is incarcerated at a private correctional facility.

(3) The provisions of this part are not intended to create a private or public cause of action for any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, including any inmate housed within any private correctional facility or any inmate housed within the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 511, L. 1997.

53-30-610. Restrictions on inmate movements. An inmate may not leave the secure premises of a private correctional facility except to comply with a court order, to receive medical care that is not available at the private correctional facility, or as part of a work program without the express written approval of the department. Any movement of an inmate outside of the secure premises of the private correctional facility must be in compliance with approved policies and procedures established by the department.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 511, L. 1997.

53-30-611. Failure to comply with law — action by department. (1) A contractor shall remain in strict compliance with this part, established applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, as determined by the department by administrative rule, department rules, and contract requirements.

(2) If the department determines at any time that a private correctional facility does not conform to this part, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, department rules, and contract requirements, the department shall notify the chief executive officer and the owner or operator, or both, of the private correctional facility. The notice must state the deficiencies and order that they be remedied within a specified period of time not to exceed 1 year. If the deficiencies are not remedied within that time, the department may hold a contested case hearing under Title 2, chapter 4, and if the department finds that suspension or revocation is warranted by nonconformance with this part, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, department rules, and contract requirements, the department may suspend or revoke the facility's license.

(3) If a private correctional facility fails to comply with this part, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, department rules, or contract requirements within the specified time period, the state may assume control of the facility for the purpose of protecting the inmates, facility staff, or the public. If the state assumes control of the facility, the department shall suspend payment for any services, and the department assumes the costs of assuming control.

(4) The department may assume emergency control of a private correctional facility if substantial violations exist that affect the life, health, or safety of the inmates, facility employees, or the public or that otherwise substantially impact the security of the private correctional facility.

(5) In the event that a contractor fails to comply with this part, applicable American correctional association and national commission on correctional health care standards, department rules, or contract requirements, the state may retain the option of purchasing or leasing the facility.

(6) If either the state or the contractor fails to renew a contract, the state may retain the option of purchasing or leasing the facility.

(7) If the state retains the option of purchasing or leasing the facility under subsections (5) and (6) of this section, because it requires the creation of state debt, the appropriation bill that funds the purchase of services from the facility must be treated in the same manner as a bill creating state debt and requires a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature for passage.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 511, L. 1997.

Part 7
Restrictive Housing

Part Cross-References

Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.

Correctional policy, 46-18-101.

Department of Corrections, Title 53, ch. 1, part 2.

53-30-701. Policy — restrictive housing. (1) It is the policy of the state of Montana that the department of corrections and the facilities it operates or with which it contracts maintain safe, secure housing for inmates who require separation from the general inmate population for detention or for safety and security reasons.

(2) Restrictive housing should be used only:

(a) as a response to the most serious and threatening behavior;

(b) for the shortest time possible; and

(c) with the least restrictive conditions possible.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-702. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrative segregation" means a nonpunitive housing status for inmates whose continued presence in the general population may pose a serious threat to life, property, self, staff, other inmates, or the facility's security or orderly operation.

(2) "Administrator" means the official, regardless of local title, who is ultimately responsible for the operation and management of a division, facility, or program.

(3) "Department" means the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301.

(4) "Disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities, a person who has a record of such an impairment, or a person who is regarded as having such an impairment.

(5) "Disciplinary detention" means a form of separation from the general population in which an inmate who has committed a serious violation of conduct regulations is confined to an individual cell by a disciplinary committee or other authorized group for short periods of time.

(6) "Facility" means a state prison as defined in 53-30-101(1), (2), and (4) or a correctional facility pursuant to 52-5-101.

(7) "Mental disorder" means exhibiting impaired emotional, cognitive, or behavioral functioning that interferes seriously with an individual's ability to function adequately except with supportive treatment or services. The individual also must:

(a) currently have or have had within the past year a diagnosed mental disorder; and

(b) currently exhibit significant signs and symptoms of a mental disorder.

(8) "Postpartum" means the first 6 weeks after delivery.

(9) "Prehearing confinement" means a short-term, nonpunitive housing status that is used to safely and securely control high-risk or at-risk inmates.

(10) "Protective custody" means a form of separation from the general population for an inmate who requests or requires protection from other inmates for reasons of health or safety.

(11) "Qualified mental health professional" includes psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, licensed professional counselors, psychiatric nurses, or others who, by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience, are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental health needs of patients.

(12) "Restrictive housing" means a placement that requires an inmate to be confined to a cell for at least 22 hours a day for the safe and secure operation of the facility. The term includes administrative segregation, protective custody, and disciplinary detention if the conditions of confinement require inmates to be confined to a cell for at least 22 hours a day.

(13) (a) "Severe mental illness" means a substantial organic or psychiatric disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that significantly impairs judgment, behavior, or the ability to cope with the basic demands of life.

(b) Intellectual disability, epilepsy, other developmental disabilities, alcohol or substance abuse, or brief periods of intoxication or criminal behavior do not alone constitute severe mental illness. The individual must also:

(i) currently have or have had within the past year a diagnosed mental disorder; and

(ii) currently exhibit significant signs and symptoms of a mental disorder.

(14) "Step-down program" means an individualized program that includes a system of review and establishes criteria to prepare an inmate for transition to the general population or the community and that involves a coordinated, multidisciplinary team approach that includes mental health, case management, and security practitioners.

(15) "Temporary confinement" has the same meaning as "prehearing confinement" as defined in this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 482, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 339, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 2021.

53-30-703. General requirements for restrictive housing — procedures. (1) An inmate may be housed in administrative segregation during an investigation of alleged violations.

(2) An inmate may be placed in disciplinary detention only after a finding of a rule violation at an impartial hearing and when there is not an adequate alternative disposition to regulate the inmate's behavior.

(3) An inmate's status in protective custody must be reviewed periodically by a classification committee or other designated group.

(4) Medical personnel must be part of a multidisciplinary team when an inmate who has chronic care or other significant medical accommodation needs participates in a step-down program.

(5) An inmate's placement in restrictive housing may not exceed 22 hours in a 24-hour period and is limited to circumstances that pose a direct threat to the safety of persons or a clear threat to the safe and secure operations of the facility. Placement may be made only after considering:

(a) the relationship between the threat the offender poses and the behaviors articulated in the schedule established pursuant to subsection (9);

(b) the impact that restrictive housing may have on the medical and mental health conditions exhibited by the inmate and possible alternatives that may be available to compensate for these conditions; and

(c) a description of alternatives to restrictive housing that may be available to safely address the threat posed by the inmate.

(6) Female inmates determined to be pregnant or postpartum may not be housed in restrictive housing unless exigent circumstances exist. If exigent circumstances exist, a female inmate who is pregnant or postpartum may be placed in restrictive housing for a time not to exceed 24 hours. Any extension for exigent circumstances must be approved by the administrator or the administrator's designee.

(7) A facility shall establish written operational procedures to govern restrictive housing and protective custody units for the supervision of inmates under administrative segregation, disciplinary detention, prehearing confinement, and protective custody. The operational procedures that govern restrictive housing and protective custody must incorporate American correctional association standards that do not conflict with the provisions of this part.

(8) The administrator, a shift supervisor, or a designee of either the administrator or a shift supervisor of an adult facility may order immediate segregation or placement in a restrictive housing unit when it is necessary to protect the inmate or others. The action must be reviewed within 24 hours by the appropriate supervisor.

(9) An adult facility shall maintain a sanctioning schedule for facility rule violations.

(10) The administrator or the administrator's designee shall review the confinement of an adult inmate that continues beyond 30 days. Continuous confinement of an adult inmate for more than 30 days requires the approval of the administrator or the administrator's designee.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-704 through 53-30-706 reserved.

53-30-707. Admission — status review. (1) The procedures established by an adult facility as required in 53-30-703(7) must include:

(a) a documented process to admit an inmate to a restrictive housing unit. An inmate may be admitted for protective custody only when there is documentation that this status is warranted and no reasonable alternatives were available.

(b) a status review of an inmate in administrative segregation and protective custody every 7 days for the first 60 days of the inmate's placement and at least every 30 days after the first 60 days. The reviews must be conducted by a classification committee or other staff group.

(c) that, in nonemergent circumstances, an inmate may not be disciplined, placed on a behavior management plan, classified, or reclassified to a restrictive housing unit based on the inmate's disability or mental disorder or on behavior that is a product of the inmate's disability or mental disorder unless the placement is after a prompt and appropriate evaluation by a qualified mental health professional;

(d) a documented review process to release an offender from administrative segregation or protective custody;

(e) that an inmate may not be placed in prehearing confinement or in restrictive housing based solely on the inmate's disability or mental disorder or on behavior that is a product of the inmate's disability or mental disorder unless, after a prompt and appropriate evaluation by a qualified mental health professional, the qualified mental health professional determines that the inmate presents such an immediate and serious danger that there is no reasonable alternative. If the inmate is placed in prehearing confinement or in restrictive housing, the inmate must be evaluated by a qualified mental health professional within 48 hours and regularly reevaluated every 14 days with the goal of securing appropriate treatment and reintegrating the inmate into the general population.

(f) that a hearing by a disciplinary committee or a hearings officer must be completed before an inmate is placed in disciplinary detention for a rule violation; and

(g) that an inmate held in disciplinary detention for a period exceeding 60 days must be provided the same program services and privileges as inmates in administrative segregation or protective custody. The administrator or the administrator's designee shall review and approve the services and privileges to be allowed under this subsection (1)(g).

(2) A new adult inmate placed directly into restrictive housing will receive written orientation materials and, if required, translations in the inmate's own language. When a literacy problem exists, a staff member may assist the inmate in understanding the material. Completion of orientation must be documented by a statement signed and dated by the inmate.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-708. Mental health status review. (1) When a housing or management unit exists for adult or youth inmates with a mental disorder, procedures adopted pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must provide for placements, assessments, specialized treatments, program services, and scheduled case reviews by qualified mental health professionals in accordance with policies established by the department.

(2) Upon notification that an inmate has been placed in restrictive housing, a qualified health care professional will review the inmate's health record. If an existing medical, mental health, or dental need requires accommodation, custody staff must be notified.

(3) When reviewing the health records of an inmate with a mental disorder who has been placed in restrictive housing, a qualified health care professional shall notify mental health staff. This review and notification must be documented in the inmate's health record.

(4) The procedures established pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must provide that an inmate entering restrictive housing must be seen and assessed by a qualified mental health professional or health care professional, in accordance with the national commission on correctional health care standards. Each contact must be documented in the inmate's record, and the notation must contain, at a minimum, a status report and the date and time of the contact. Individual documentation must be filed in the inmate's medical and mental health records.

(5) A qualified mental health professional shall complete a mental health appraisal within the period set by American correctional association standards after an inmate's placement in restrictive housing. The appraisal may include a mental health review that has been completed by health care personnel at the time the inmate is placed in restrictive housing. If confinement continues beyond 30 days, a qualified mental health professional shall complete an updated mental health appraisal with the frequency set by American correctional association standards for an inmate with a diagnosed mental disorder and more frequently if clinically indicated. For an inmate without a mental disorder, the appraisal must be completed with the frequency set by American correctional association standards and more frequently if clinically indicated. The mental health appraisal must be conducted in a manner that ensures confidentiality. Dissemination of any information obtained in the mental health appraisal must be for the limited purpose of institutional safety and security.

(6) An inmate diagnosed with a severe mental illness may not be placed in restrictive housing for more than 14 days unless a multidisciplinary service team determines there is an immediate and present danger to others or to the safety of the institution. If an inmate with a severe mental illness is placed in restrictive housing, the inmate must be provided with an

active individualized treatment plan that includes weekly monitoring by mental health staff, treatment as necessary, and steps to facilitate the transition of the inmate back into the general population.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 482, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 2021.**

53-30-709. Supervisory oversight. Procedures established pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must:

(1) provide that an adult inmate in restrictive housing or protective custody must receive daily visits from the shift supervisor or supervisor in charge, daily visits from a qualified health care professional unless more frequent visits are indicated, and visits from members of the program staff on request;

(2) require that an adult inmate in restrictive housing is personally observed by a correctional officer at least every 30 to 60 minutes on an irregular schedule. An adult inmate who is violent or mentally disordered or who demonstrates unusual or bizarre behavior must receive more frequent observation. Suicidal offenders must be under continuing observation.

(3) govern the selection criteria, supervision, and rotation of staff who work directly with inmates in restrictive housing units on a regular and daily basis.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 482, L. 2019.**

53-30-710. Recordkeeping. (1) A facility with a restrictive housing unit shall comply with the general recordkeeping requirements provided in department policy.

(2) Procedures adopted pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must require that staff operating restrictive housing units maintain permanent logs and records that adequately document the activities, programs, and visitation patterns of the unit and of individual inmates. Staff shall maintain records that include the following:

(a) all admissions and releases, including date of action, time of action, reason for admission or release, and authorizing official or committee;

(b) a record of visitors, including all official visits by staff members, medical staff visits, and the time, date, and signature of each visitor;

(c) notations of unusual behavior by an inmate or the inmates in the unit as a whole; and

(d) information from and observations by staff that are forwarded for staff action and observation during future shifts.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 482, L. 2019.**

53-30-711 through 53-30-715 reserved.

53-30-716. Conditions of confinement. (1) (a) An inmate in restrictive housing must be provided with:

(i) prescribed medication;

(ii) other medically necessary treatment as prescribed by a qualified health care provider;

(iii) clothing that is not degrading or specialized clothing when reasons for its use are documented;

(iv) access to basic personal items for use in the inmate's cell unless there is imminent danger that the inmate or any other inmate will destroy the item or induce self-injury;

(v) the opportunity to shower and shave at least three times each week;

(vi) laundry, barbering, and hair care services; and

(vii) the opportunity to exchange clothing, bedding, and linen on the same basis as inmates in the general population.

(b) Exceptions to the requirements in subsection (1)(a) may be permitted if found necessary by a supervisor. Exceptions must be recorded in the inmate's log and justified in writing.

(2) A facility may provide alternative meal service to an inmate who uses food or food service equipment in a manner that is hazardous to self, staff, or other inmates. Service may be provided on an individual basis based only on health or safety considerations and must meet basic nutritional requirements and occur only with the written approval of the administrator or chief health care authority. The food substitution period may not exceed 7 days.

(3) Procedures adopted pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must provide that whenever an adult or youth inmate is deprived of any usually authorized item or activity, a report of the action must be filed in both the inmate's log and the inmate's case record and forwarded to the facility's chief of security.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 482, L. 2019.**

53-30-717. Programs, services, and access to legal and reading materials. (1) An inmate in a restrictive housing unit shall have:

(a) the opportunity to write and receive letters on the same basis as inmates in the general population;

(b) opportunities for visitation unless there are substantial reasons for withholding visitation privileges. If visitation privileges are withheld, the administrator shall approve the restriction.

(c) access to personal legal materials and available legal reference materials; and

(d) access to reading materials from the facility library.

(2) An inmate in administrative segregation or protective custody or an inmate housed in disciplinary detention must have access to programs and services that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) educational services;

(b) commissary services;

(c) library services;

(d) social services;

(e) counseling services;

(f) religious guidance; and

(g) recreational programs.

(3) The programs and services described in subsections (1) and (2) are not required to be identical to those provided in the facility's general population. However, there may not be major differences for any reasons other than danger to life, health, or safety.

(4) An inmate with a disability may not be denied a reasonable accommodation simply because the inmate is in restrictive housing or a similar condition, unless safety or security concerns render the accommodation unreasonable.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-718. Exercise outside of cell. (1) An adult inmate in restrictive housing or protective custody must be allowed a minimum of 1 hour of exercise each day outside of the inmate's cell, 5 days a week, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise.

(2) A youth inmate in protective custody must be allowed 1 hour of large muscle activity every 24 hours.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-719. Telephone privileges. (1) An adult inmate in restrictive housing for administrative segregation or protective custody or a youth in protective custody is allowed telephone privileges.

(2) Unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise, an inmate in restrictive housing is allowed, at minimum, telephone privileges to access the judicial process, to call an attorney of record, and during family emergencies as determined by the administrator or the administrator's designee.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-720. Requirements for youth facilities. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a facility that houses youth inmates may not use restrictive housing.

(2) The administrator or the administrator's designee may order a youth to be placed in protective custody for temporary confinement not to exceed 24 hours when it is necessary to protect the youth or others. The action must be reviewed by the facility administrator within 4 hours regardless of weekends or holidays, or the next morning if the youth is placed in protective custody after 9 p.m.

(3) Procedures adopted pursuant to 53-30-703(7) must provide special management for a youth inmate with serious behavior problems and for a youth who requires protective care.

(4) A youth facility shall develop individual program plans and provide appropriate services that may require youth inmates to be separated from the general population.

(5) A youth in protective custody must be allowed out of cell for more than 2 hours in a 24-hour period.

(6) A youth in protective custody must be observed by staff at least every 15 minutes.

(7) A youth in protective custody must be visited at least once each day by staff from administrative, clinical, social work, religious, or medical units.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

53-30-721 through 53-30-724 reserved.

53-30-725. Step-down programs — release directly from restrictive housing. (1) A facility shall establish step-down programs and offer them to an inmate who has been in restrictive housing for more than 30 days to facilitate reintegration of the inmate into the general population or the community. Step-down programs must, at a minimum, include the following:

(a) a prescreening evaluation;

(b) monthly evaluations using a multidisciplinary approach to determine the inmate's compliance with program requirements;

(c) subject to monthly evaluations, gradually increasing out-of-cell time, group interaction, education and programming opportunities, and privileges;

(d) a step-down transition compliance review; and

(e) a postscreening evaluation.

(2) (a) A facility shall attempt to ensure that an inmate is not released directly into the community after 30 days or more in restrictive housing.

(b) In the event that the release of an inmate directly from restrictive housing into the community is imminent, the facility shall document the justification and, unless the justification is an immediate court-ordered release, obtain approval from the department director or the director's designee.

(c) In addition to general release protocols, when an inmate is released directly into the community from more than 30 days of restrictive housing, at a minimum, the facility shall take the following steps, at a minimum, unless the justification is an immediate court-ordered release:

(i) development of a release plan tailored to the specific needs of the inmate;

(ii) notification of the inmate's release to state and local law enforcement;

(iii) notification to the inmate of applicable community resources; and

(iv) victim notification, if applicable.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 482, L. 2019.

TITLES 54 THROUGH 59

RESERVED

TITLE 60

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Ch.
1. Highway Code.
2. State Administration.
3. Distribution and Apportionment of Highway Funds.
4. Acquisition and Disposition of Property.
5. Control of Access and Information Signs.
6. Highway Encroachments.
7. Livestock on Highways.
Chapters 8 through 10 reserved.
11. Rail Transportation.
Chapters 12 through 20 reserved.
21. Public Transportation.

CHAPTER 1

HIGHWAY CODE

Part 1 — General Provisions

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60-1-233. Jeannette Rankin memorial highway.
60-1-234. Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway.
60-1-235. Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway.
60-1-236. Otto Fossen memorial highway.
60-1-237. Helen Clarke memorial highway.
60-1-238. Terry Spotted Wolf, Sr. memorial highway.
60-1-239. Chief Earl Old Person memorial highway.
60-1-240. Jacob Allmendinger memorial highway.
60-1-241. Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway.

Chapter Cross-References

Local government — transportation, Title 7, ch. 14.
General obligation highway bonds, Title 17, ch. 5, part 5.
Traffic education, Title 20, ch. 7, part 5.
Conditional granting of use of highways to nonresidents, 25-3-601.
Highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1.
Motor Vehicles, Title 61.
Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.
Motor carriers — regulation, Title 69, ch. 12.
Railroad highway crossing, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.
Hunting rights on adjoining federal wildlife preserve — distance from highways, 87-1-227.
Coal impacts — evaluation and abatement funding, Title 90, ch. 6, part 2.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Roadblocks, Title 46, ch. 5, part 5.
Highway safety, Title 61, ch. 2.

60-1-101. Legislative findings. The legislature recognizes that safe and efficient highway transportation is of important interest to all of the people of the state and declares that:

(1) inadequate highways, roads, and streets obstruct the free flow of traffic, increase costs of motor vehicle operation, endanger the health and safety of the citizens of the state, depreciate property values, and impede generally the economic progress of the state;

(2) the problems of establishing and maintaining adequate highways, roads, and streets, eliminating congestion, reducing accident frequency, providing parking facilities, and taking all necessary steps to insure safe and convenient transportation are urgent;

(3) adequate and integrated systems of highways, roads, and streets are essential to the general welfare of the state;

(4) providing adequate highway facilities is a proper public use and purpose, and this title is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, for the promotion of the general welfare, and as a contribution to the national defense.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1979.**

60-1-102. Legislative policy and intent. Consistent with the determinations and declarations provided in 60-1-101, the legislature intends:

(1) to place a high degree of trust in the hands of those officials whose duty it is, within the limits of available funds, to plan, develop, operate, maintain, and protect the highway facilities of this state for present as well as for future use;

(2) to make the department of transportation custodian of the commission-designated highway systems and state highways and to impose similar responsibilities upon the boards of county commissioners with respect to county roads and upon municipal officials with respect to the streets under their jurisdiction;

(3) that the state have integrated systems of highways, roads, and streets and that the department of transportation, the counties, and municipalities assist and cooperate with each other to that end;

(4) to provide sufficiently broad authority to enable the highway officials at all levels of government to function adequately and efficiently in all areas of their respective responsibilities, subject to the limitations of the constitution and the legislative mandate imposed.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2202; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Municipal contracts and franchises, Title 7, ch. 5, part 43.
General provisions related to county roads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 21.
Highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1.
Authority of Department of Transportation, 61-3-713.
Planning of roads and streets by planning boards, 76-1-106.
Growth policy — planning board, 76-1-601.
Exemption from surveying and platting requirements for lands acquired for state highways, 76-3-209.

60-1-103. General definitions. Subject to additional definitions contained in this title that are applicable to specific chapters or sections and unless the context otherwise requires, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abandonment" means cessation of use of right-of-way or an easement or cessation of activity on the right-of-way or easement with no intention to reclaim or use again. Abandonment is sometimes called vacation.

(2) "Bridge" means any bridge constructed by the department, together with all appurtenances, additions, alterations, improvements, and replacements and the approaches to the bridge, lands used in connection with the bridge, and improvements incidental or integral to the bridge.

(3) "Commission" means the transportation commission provided for in 2-15-2502.

(4) "Commission-designated highway systems" means the following as defined in this section:

(a) national highway system;

(b) primary highway system;

(c) secondary highway system; and

(d) urban highway system.

(5) "Condemnation" means taking by exercise of the right of eminent domain, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, and chapter 4 of this title.

(6) "Construction" means supervising, inspecting, actual building, and all expenses incidental to the construction or reconstruction of a highway, including locating, surveying, mapping, and costs of right-of-way or other interests in land and elimination of hazards at railway grade crossings.

(7) "Control of access" means the condition in which the right of owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons to access, light, air, or view in connection with a highway is fully or partially controlled by public authority.

(8) "County road" means any public highway opened, established, constructed, maintained, abandoned, or discontinued by a county in accordance with Title 7, chapter 14.

(9) "Department" means the department of transportation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 25.

(10) "Director" means the director of transportation, a position provided for in 2-15-2501.

(11) "Easement" means a right acquired by public authority to use or control property for a designated purpose.

(12) "Eminent domain" means the right of the state to take private property for public use.

(13) "Federal-aid highway funds" means those funds available for expenditure by the department pursuant to Title 23, U.S.C., or other federally available funds for highways.

(14) "Fee simple" means an absolute estate or ownership in property, including unlimited power of alienation.

(15) "Financial district" means a transportation commission district established in 2-15-2502.

(16) "Highway" includes rights-of-way or other interests in land, embankments, retaining walls, culverts, sluices, drainage structures, bridges, railroad-highway crossings, tunnels, signs, guardrails, and protective structures.

(17) "Highway", "road", and "street", whether the terms appear together or separately or are preceded by the adjective "public", are general terms denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular travel and include the entire area within the right-of-way.

(18) "Highway authority" means the entity at any level of government authorized by law to construct and maintain highways.

(19) "Interstate highway" means a highway that is part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower system of interstate and defense highways described in Title 23, U.S.C., and is a subcomponent of the national highway system.

(20) "Maintenance" means the preservation of the entire highway, including surface, shoulders, roadsides, structures, and traffic control devices that are necessary for the safe and efficient use of the highway.

(21) “National highway system” means that system of public highways designated by the commission and approved by the secretary of transportation, as provided in Title 23, U.S.C., including interstate highways.

(22) “Primary highway system” means those highways that have been functionally classified, in accordance with federal requirements, as either principal or minor arterials and designated by the commission as being on the primary highway system.

(23) “Public highways” means all streets, roads, highways, bridges, and related structures:

(a) built and maintained with appropriated funds of the United States or the state or any political subdivision of the state;

(b) dedicated to public use;

(c) acquired by eminent domain, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, and chapter 4 of this title; or

(d) acquired by adverse use by the public, with jurisdiction having been assumed by the state or any political subdivision of the state.

(24) “Right-of-way” is a general term denoting land, property, or any interest in land or property, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to highway purposes.

(25) “Scenic-historic byway” means a public road or segment of a public road that has been designated as a scenic-historic byway by the commission, as provided in 60-2-601.

(26) “Secondary highway system” means those highways that are outside department-designated urban boundaries and that have been functionally classified, in accordance with federal requirements, as either minor arterials or major collectors and designated by the commission, in cooperation with the boards of county commissioners, as being on the secondary highway system.

(27) “State highways” means the highways throughout the state that are not located on a commission-designated highway system but that are on the state maintenance system.

(28) “Urban highway system” means the highways and streets that are in and near incorporated cities with populations of over 5,000 and within urban boundaries established by the department and that are functionally classified, in accordance with federal requirements, as either arterials or major collectors and designated by the commission, in cooperation with local government authorities, as being on the urban highway system.

History: En. Sec. 2-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2203(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 546, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.

Access to surface waters by public bridge or county road right-of-way, 23-2-312.

60-1-104. Good Roads Day. The third Tuesday in June is hereby designated “Good Roads Day”. The governor may annually by public proclamation request the people of the state to contribute toward the improvement and safety of public highways.

History: En. Sec. 11-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4401.

Part 2
Classification of Highways

Part Cross-References

Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction over Blackfeet highway, 2-1-206.

60-1-201. Classification — highways and roads. (1) Public highways of this state are classified as follows:

(a) commission-designated highway systems;

(b) state highways;

(c) county roads;

(d) city streets.

(2) All highways that are not designated, selected, or established by the commission or constructed or maintained by the department may be designated as county roads or city streets upon the acceptance of the county or city.

(3) County roads are those that are opened, established, constructed, maintained, changed, abandoned, or discontinued by a county in accordance with Title 7, chapter 14, or that have been

the subject of a request under 7-14-2622 and for which a legal route has been recognized by a district court as provided in 7-14-2622.

(4) City streets are those public highways under the jurisdiction of municipal officials.

History: **En. Sec. 3-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2301; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 241, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

General provisions related to county roads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 21.

General provisions related to municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.

Access to surface waters by public bridge or county road right-of-way, 23-2-312.

Roads, Title 61, ch. 1, part 2.

60-1-202. Lewis and Clark highway. There is hereby established the Lewis and Clark highway. It shall be composed of the following existing routes:

(1) from the Idaho state line west of Lolo Hot Springs, Montana, to the junction with U.S. highway 93 at Lolo;

(2) thence north from Lolo on U.S. highway 93 to Missoula;

(3) thence east from Missoula on U.S. highways 12 and 10 to Garrison;

(4) thence east from Garrison on U.S. highway 12 through Forsyth and Baker to the North Dakota state line.

History: **En. Sec. 3-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2302.**

60-1-203. Veterans memorial highway. There is established the veterans memorial highway composed of the existing U.S. interstate highway 15 from the Montana-Idaho border at Monida Pass to the international boundary at Sweetgrass.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1987.**

60-1-204. Maureen and Mike Mansfield heritage route. The portion of U.S. interstate highway 15 between Butte and Great Falls is established as the Maureen and Mike Mansfield heritage route.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 643, L. 1989.**

60-1-205. Charles M. Russell trail. The portion of U.S. highway 87, state highway 200, between Great Falls and Lewistown and continuing to Jordan and the portion of state secondary road 543, connecting U.S. highway 87, state highway 200, to the Charles M. Russell national wildlife refuge, are established as the Charles M. Russell trail.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1993.**

60-1-206. Donald J. Ruhl medal of honor highway. The portion of Montana state highway 78, from Columbus through Absarokee and Roscoe to Red Lodge, is established as the Donald J. Ruhl medal of honor highway.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1995.**

60-1-207. Old forts trail. The old forts trail is established as follows:

(1) beginning at the old fort park in Fort Benton, proceeding west via 20th street to Saint Charles street, along Saint Charles street to state highway 387, along state highway 387 to U.S. highway 87 to Havre, and continuing along state highway 233 and into Canada on Saskatchewan 21; and

(2) beginning at the old fort park in Fort Benton and proceeding west via 20th street to Saint Charles street, along Saint Charles street to state highway 223 north, southwest on U.S. highway 87 to the junction with state highway 564, north on state highway 564 to the junction with state highway 365, west on state highway 365 to the junction with state highway 225, north on state highway 225 to the junction with state highway 366, west on state highway 366 to the junction with state highway 417, north on state highway 417 to the junction with U.S. highway 2, west on U.S. highway 2 to the junction with interstate highway 15, north on interstate highway 15, and into Canada on Alberta highway 4.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 2005.**

60-1-208. Montana highway 3. (1) The portion of Montana highway 3 and U.S. highway 12 from Billings to Harlowton via Lavina, proceeding north on U.S. highway 191 to U.S. highway 87, northwest along U.S. highway 87 to Montana highway 200, continuing along Montana highway 200 through the intersection with U.S. highway 89, and along U.S. highway 87/89 to Great Falls is designated as Montana highway 3.

(2) The department shall erect and maintain signs designating Montana highway 3 along the route established in subsection (1) and shall accomplish the signing changes required in this section in accordance with the department's normal sign maintenance and replacement schedule.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 1997.**

60-1-209. 163rd infantry regiment (sunset division) heritage highway. (1) U.S highway 2 from the eastern border to the western border of Montana, a distance of 670 miles, is established as the 163rd infantry regiment (sunset division) heritage highway.

(2) The department of transportation shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the new name of the highway.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 2003.**

60-1-210. Purple heart trail. The purple heart trail is the U.S. interstate highway system in Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 538, L. 2003.**

60-1-211. Patrick G. Galvin memorial highway. (1) There is established the Patrick G. Galvin memorial highway composed of the existing Montana highway 3 from the boundary of the city of Great Falls to the intersection of Montana highway 3 and U.S. highway 89 at Armington.

(2) When existing road signs between Great Falls and the intersection of Montana highway 3 and U.S. highway 89 at Armington need replacement, the department shall erect road signs reflecting the memorial designation in subsection (1).

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated or replaced.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 2005.**

60-1-212. Richard Dean Roebling memorial highway. (1) The portion of U.S. highway 87 known as "Main Street" in Billings is established as the Richard Dean Roebling memorial highway for commemorative purposes only.

(2) The department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the name of the highway but may not erect more than three markers along the highway.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 2005.**

60-1-213. Robert E. Ewing Jr. memorial highway. (1) There is established the Robert E. Ewing Jr. memorial highway composed of the existing Montana interstate 90 from reference marker 410 to reference marker 424, between Columbus and Park City.

(2) When existing road signs between reference marker 410 and reference marker 424 need replacement, the department shall erect road signs reflecting the memorial designation in subsection (1).

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when maps are updated or replaced.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2007.**

60-1-214. Warrior trail highway. (1) There is established the warrior trail highway composed of existing U.S. highway 212 from the 510 exit at interstate 90 to the U.S. highway 212 intersection with the Wyoming border.

(2) When existing road signs along U.S. highway 212, as described in subsection (1) need replacement, the department shall erect road signs reflecting the name designation in subsection (1).

(3) The department shall erect signs, consistent in size with interstate directional signs, in northbound and southbound locations on interstate 90 so as to alert motorists of the exit to the warrior trail highway.

(4) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must reflect the name designation in subsection (1) when maps are updated or replaced.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 2007.**

60-1-215. Highway patrol officer David Graham memorial highway. (1) There is established the highway patrol officer David Graham memorial highway on the existing U.S highway 2 from the southern boundary of the city of Kalispell to the western boundary of the city of Columbia Falls.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 2009.**

60-1-216. Highway patrol officer Evan F. Schneider memorial highway. (1) There is established the highway patrol officer Evan F. Schneider memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 2 from the eastern boundary of the city of Columbia Falls to the western boundary of the city of Hungry Horse.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2009.**

60-1-217. Highway patrol officer Michael W. Haynes memorial highway. (1) There s established the highway patrol officer Michael W. Haynes memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 93 from the intersection with Montana highway 82 to the southern boundary of the city of Kalispell.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 2011.**

60-1-218. Highway patrol officer David DeLaittre memorial highway. (1) There s established the highway patrol officer David DeLaittre memorial highway on existing U.S. highway 287 and Montana highway 2 between mile 93.3 and mile 97.3.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2011.**

60-1-219. Pintler veterans' memorial scenic highway. (1) There is established the Pintler veterans' memorial scenic highway on the existing Montana highway 1.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are regularly updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 2011.**

60-1-220. Patrick A. Pyette memorial highway. (1) There is established the Patrick A. Pyette memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 2 from the eastern boundary of the city of Chinook to the community of Zurich.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 2013.**

60-1-221. Joshua Thomas "Josh" Rutherford memorial highway. (1) There is established the Joshua Thomas "Josh" Rutherford memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 2 from the community of Zurich to the boundary of the Fort Belknap reservation.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when the maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 2013.**

60-1-222. Joseph J. Dunn memorial highway. (1) There is established the Joseph J. Dunn memorial highway on the existing Montana interstate 15 between the Ulm interchange and Gore Hill interchange, which is adjacent to the offices of the Cascade County sheriff's department located on Gore Hill in Cascade County.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Joseph J. Dunn memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Joseph J. Dunn memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 2015.**

60-1-223. David L. Briese Jr. memorial highway. (1) There is established the David L. Briese Jr. memorial highway on the existing Montana interstate 90 between mile 445 and mile 451.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the David L. Briese Jr. memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the David L. Briese Jr. memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2017.**

60-1-224. Senator Conrad Burns memorial highway. (1) There is established the Senator Conrad Burns memorial highway on the existing road known as "Airport Road" in Billings from the junction with U.S. highway 87 known as "Main Street" in the Billings heights to the intersection of north 27th street, Montana highway 3.

(2) When existing road signs on the designated highway need replacement, the department shall provide appropriate markers to recognize the memorial designation of the highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to reflect the memorial designation in subsection (1) when maps are updated.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 2017.**

60-1-225. David Thatcher memorial highway. (1) There is established the David Thatcher memorial highway on existing state highway 419 from state highway 419's intersection with state highway 78 to state highway 419's junction with Stillwater road.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the David Thatcher memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the David Thatcher memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2019.**

60-1-226. Trenton Johnson memorial highway. (1) There is established the Trenton Johnson memorial highway on existing state highway 83 between mile marker 14 and mile marker 22.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Trenton Johnson memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Trenton Johnson memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2019.**

60-1-227. Pearl Harbor Veterans memorial highway. (1) There is established the Pearl Harbor veterans memorial highway on the existing Montana highway 532 in Yellowstone County, between mile marker 1 and mile marker 2.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Pearl Harbor veterans memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Pearl Harbor veterans memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 2019.**

60-1-228. Montana medal of honor highway. (1) There is established the Montana medal of honor highway on the existing U.S. highway 20 within the state boundaries.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Montana medal of honor highway at the Targhee pass and at the boundary of Yellowstone national park.

(3) (a) The department shall design and install a memorial plaque at a location along the medal of honor highway with the names of the Montanans who have received the medal of honor. These Montanans are Travis Atkins, William Galt, John McLennon, John Moran, Laverne Parrish, Leo Powers, Donald Ruhl, Henry Schauer, and Cornelius Smith.

(b) The legislature intends that the names of future medal of honor recipients be added to the memorial plaque.

(4) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Montana medal of honor highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 2019.**

60-1-229. Dolly Smith Akers memorial highway. (1) There is established the Dolly Smith Akers memorial highway on existing U.S. highway 2 from Wolf Creek to the Poplar River.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Dolly Smith Akers memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Dolly Smith Akers memorial highway.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 2019.**

60-1-230. Mason Moore memorial highway. (1) There is established the Mason Moore memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 287 at mile marker 109.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Mason Moore memorial highway at mile marker 109 on the northbound side stating his name, title, badge number, and the date of his passing.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Mason Moore memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 2019.**

60-1-231. Brent Witham memorial highway. (1) There is established the Brent Witham memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 12 between mile 20 and mile 32.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Brent Witham memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Brent Witham memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 2019.**

60-1-232. Flathead County veterans memorial. (1) The bridge spanning the south fork of the Flathead River near Hungry Horse, Montana, is dedicated to Flathead County veterans who have been killed in action.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs on each end of the bridge marking the Flathead County veterans memorial.

(3) The department shall design and install a memorial plaque at a location near the bridge with the names of individual Flathead County veterans who have been killed in action.

(4) The legislature intends that the names of future Flathead County veterans who are killed in action be added to the memorial plaque.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 2019.**

60-1-233. Jeannette Rankin memorial highway. (1) There is established the Jeannette Rankin memorial highway on existing interstate 90 from mile marker 101 to mile marker 106.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Jeannette Rankin memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Jeannette Rankin memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 457, L. 2019.

60-1-234. Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway. (1) There is established the Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway on existing U.S. highway 89 from mile marker 85.3 to mile marker 89.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Minnie Spotted-Wolf memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 2019.

60-1-235. Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway. (1) There is established the Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 93 north from mile marker 7 to mile marker 9.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Louis Charles Charlo memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2019.

60-1-236. Otto Fossen memorial highway. (1) There is established the Otto Fossen memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 2 from mile marker 329 to the Hill County line.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Otto Fossen memorial highway, stating his name, title, and the date of his passing.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Otto Fossen memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 2021.

60-1-237. Helen Clarke memorial highway. (1) There is established the Helen Clarke memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 2 from the limits of East Glacier to the limits of Browning.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Helen Clarke memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in Montana must be updated to include the location of the Helen Clarke memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 2021.

60-1-238. Terry Spotted Wolf, Sr. memorial highway. (1) There is established the Terry Spotted Wolf, Sr. memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 212 from mile marker 26 to mile marker 27.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Terry Spotted Wolf, Sr. memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Terry Spotted Wolf, Sr. memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 2021.

60-1-239. Chief Earl Old Person memorial highway. (1) There is established the Chief Earl Old Person memorial highway on the existing U.S. highway 89 from its intersection with border road to its intersection with U.S. highway 2.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Chief Earl Old Person memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the Chief Earl Old Person memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 146, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 18, 2023.

60-1-240. Jacob Allmendinger memorial highway. (1) There is established the Jacob Allmendinger memorial highway on the existing Montana state highway 86 from its intersection with Fairy Lake road to its intersection with Bracket Creek road.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Jacob Allmendinger memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Jacob Allmendinger memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 147, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 19, 2023.

60-1-241. Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway. (1) There is established the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway on the existing state highway 81, beginning at the intersection of state highway 81 and U.S. highway 191 and ending at the intersection of state highways 81 and 80.

(2) The department shall design and install appropriate signs marking the location of the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway.

(3) Maps that identify roadways in the state must be updated to include the location of the Ensign James A. Shelton memorial highway when the department updates and publishes the state maps.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 459, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective May 8, 2023.

CHAPTER 2
STATE ADMINISTRATION

Part 1 — Transportation Commission

60-2-101. Repealed.
60-2-102. Repealed.
60-2-103. Repealed.
60-2-104. Repealed.
60-2-105. Repealed.
60-2-106. Designation of highways not located entirely within the state.
60-2-107. Abandonment of highways — exchange of roadways — public notice required.
60-2-108 and 60-2-109 reserved.
60-2-110. Setting priorities and selecting projects.
60-2-111. Letting of contracts on state highways and commission-designated highway systems.
60-2-112. Competitive bidding — reciprocity.
60-2-113. Bidder's security — contractor's bond.
60-2-114. Bids for contracts let by commission to contain security, unit price, and signature.
60-2-115. Contract let by commission — time for final payment of contract price — interest.
60-2-116. Payment of contractors and subcontractors.
60-2-117. Contract indemnification provisions.
60-2-118. Repealed.
60-2-119. Terminated.
60-2-120. Alternative project delivery.
60-2-121. Authority of commission to prioritize expenditures on railroad crossings — public hearing.
60-2-122 through 60-2-124 reserved.
60-2-125. Repealed.
60-2-126. Designation of public highways — apportionment of funds.
60-2-127. Allocation of funds for projects.
60-2-128. Maintenance system — designation of highways.

60-2-129. Allocation of funds.
60-2-130 through 60-2-132 reserved.
60-2-133. U.S. highway 2 — planning.
60-2-134. Definitions.
60-2-135. Repealed.
60-2-136. Repealed.
60-2-137. Design-build contracting process — submission of proposals — department's duties.
60-2-138 and 60-2-139 reserved.
60-2-140. Rawhide stampede rustlers and rendezvous trade corridor — planning.
60-2-141. Use of Montana-made wooden materials in highway and road projects.
60-2-143 and 60-2-144 reserved.
60-2-145. Terminated.

Part 2 — Department of Transportation General Powers and Duties

60-2-201. General powers of department.
60-2-202. Duties of department.
60-2-203. Maintenance responsibility.
60-2-204. Maintenance agreements with local governments.
60-2-205. Powers of department with respect to highways not located entirely within the state.
60-2-206. Compilation of statistics — investigation — consultation.
60-2-207. Agreements concerning analysis of effects of weight on highways.
60-2-208. Seeding along highways.
60-2-209. Description and plan of new highway or reconstructed or controlled-access facility.
60-2-210. Payment of construction and maintenance costs within municipalities.
60-2-211. Bypassing of municipalities — consent of municipal governing body.
60-2-212 reserved.
60-2-213. Interstate emergency maintenance service agreements.
60-2-214 and 60-2-215 reserved.
60-2-216. Repealed.
60-2-217. Signs identifying mountain ranges — scenic loop highways — costs — responsibility of department.
60-2-218. Welcome and farewell signs — design, erection, maintenance — completion date — exceptions.
60-2-219. Department authorized to accept and expend funds for welcome and farewell signs.
60-2-220. Cultural heritage areas — signs — location and design — funding.
60-2-221. Renumbered 60-2-241.
60-2-222. Terminated.
60-2-223. Terminated.
60-2-224. Repealed.
60-2-225. Repealed.
60-2-226 through 60-2-239 reserved.
60-2-240. Use of postconsumer recycled materials in highway construction projects.
60-2-241. Prohibited materials.
60-2-242. Markers — commemorative highways.
60-2-243. Repealed.
60-2-244. Posted notice required at rest areas — human trafficking hotline — invasive species prevention.
60-2-245. Construction projects — project impacts — notice.

Part 3 — Ports of Entry, Checking Stations, and Interstate Cooperation

60-2-301. Ports of entry and checking stations authorized.
60-2-302. Repealed.
60-2-303. Cooperation in use of ports of entry and checking stations.
60-2-304 through 60-2-310 reserved.
60-2-311. Interstate agreements for tax and fee collection and port operation.

Parts 4 and 5 reserved

Part 6 — Scenic-Historic Byways Program

60-2-601. Scenic-historic byways program — advisory council — expenditure of funds.
60-2-602. Scenic-historic byways program — rules.
60-2-603 through 60-2-605 reserved.
60-2-606. Terminated.

Chapter Cross-References

General obligation highway bonds, Title 17, ch. 5, part 5.
Highway revenue bonds, Title 17, ch. 5, part 9.
Highway patrol officers' retirement, Title 19, ch. 6.
Conditional granting of use of highways to nonresidents, 25-3-601.
No road construction through cemetery, 35-20-217.
Highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1.

Part 1
Transportation Commission

Part Cross-References

Department of Transportation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 25.
Transportation Commission — membership and districts, 2-15-2502.
Public contractor's fees and tax, Title 15, ch. 50.
Establishment of special speed limits, 61-8-309, 61-8-310, 61-8-313.

60-2-101. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 4-104, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2404(2).

60-2-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 4-104, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2404(1).

60-2-103. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-109, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2409(1).

60-2-104. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-107, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2407(part).

60-2-105. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. 32-2407.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2407.1.

60-2-106. Designation of highways not located entirely within the state. The commission may designate highways subject to improvement under the provisions of Title 23, U.S.C., even though those highways are not located entirely and continuously within the boundaries of the state. The designations shall meet the following conditions:

(1) the highway is on an approved federal-aid route and eligible for improvement under Title 23, U.S.C.;

(2) the location of a portion of the route outside the boundaries of the state is necessary because of natural geographical or physical conditions which make the construction of the highway within the state impossible or impracticable;

(3) the portion of the route located outside the state does not connect with and is not a part of the state highway system of the adjoining state.

History: En. Sec. 4-108, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2408(1); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction over Blackfeet highway, 2-1-206.

60-2-107. Abandonment of highways — exchange of roadways — public notice required. (1) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the commission may abandon highways on the commission-designated highway systems and state highways.

(2) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, before abandoning or discontinuing maintenance on a highway, the commission shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties affected by the abandonment. The commission may elect to offer to transfer the liability for and the maintenance of a highway to another agency or agencies that may in turn elect to take responsibility for the highway. The commission shall notify the board of county commissioners in writing of its intent to abandon a highway and hold a public hearing. The commission shall publish for 3 consecutive weeks in local newspapers within the county the notice of abandonment and public hearing.

(3) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the commission may enter into an agreement with a unit of local government, on mutually beneficial terms, to exchange property interests or responsibilities, including maintenance, on any portion of a commission-designated highway system or state highway and on any portion of a county road or city street.

(4) The commission may not abandon a highway, road, or right-of-way used to provide existing legal access to public land or waters, including access for public recreational use as defined in 23-2-301 and as permitted in 23-2-302, unless another highway, road, or right-of-way provides substantially the same access.

(5) The commission may not abandon a highway, road, or right-of-way used to access private land if the access benefits two or more landowners unless all the landowners agree to the abandonment.

History: **En. Sec. 4-106, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2406(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 107, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 440, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 168, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 226, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Costs of discontinuation of trafficway, 7-14-104.
Abandonment or vacation of county roads, 7-14-2615.
Abandonment or vacation of federal-aid or state highways, 60-4-208.

60-2-108 and 60-2-109 reserved.

60-2-110. Setting priorities and selecting projects. (1) Except as provided in 60-2-133, the commission shall establish priorities and select and designate segments for construction and reconstruction on the national highway system, the primary highway system, the secondary highway system, the urban highway system, and state highways.

(2) The commission shall consult with the board of county commissioners of the county in which a highway is located when establishing priorities and when selecting and designating segments on the secondary highway system for construction and reconstruction.

(3) The commission shall consult with the appropriate local government authorities when establishing priorities and selecting and designating segments on the urban highway system for construction and reconstruction.

(4) The commission shall use information gathered or discovered by and documents prepared by the department, and department officials and employees shall provide assistance and advice.

(5) The commission shall establish and determine priorities and projects for rail and transit programs and, to the extent possible, coordinate intermodal transportation within the state.

(6) In carrying out the requirements of this section, the department shall:

(a) make recommendations to the commission;

(b) establish the requirements and procedures for administering this section; and

(c) take all reasonable steps to ensure the integrity and viability of agricultural and rural transportation and related needs.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 269, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.

60-2-111. Letting of contracts on state highways and commission-designated highway systems. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all contracts for the construction or reconstruction of the highways located on commission-designated highway systems and state highways, including portions in cities and towns, and all contracts entered into under 7-14-4108 must be let by the commission. Except as otherwise specifically provided, the commission may enter the types of contracts and upon terms that it may decide. All contracts must meet the requirements of Title 18, chapter 2, part 4. When there is no prevailing rate of wages set by collective bargaining, the commission shall determine the prevailing rate to be stated in the contract.

(2) The commission may delegate the authority, with all applicable statutory restrictions, to award any contract covered by this section to the department or to a unit of local government.

(3) The commission may award contracts for projects that the department has determined are part of the design-build contracting program authorized in 60-2-137.

(4) The commission may award contracts using alternative project delivery methods in accordance with 60-2-120.

History: **En. Sec. 9-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 192, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 56, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 145, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 145, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Modification of Termination Date: Section 7, Ch. 145, L. 2023, amended sec. 6, Ch. 54, L. 2017, by modifying the termination date imposed by Ch. 54 to June 30, 2023. Effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

County contracts, Title 7, ch. 5, part 23.
Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.
Construction contracts, Title 18, ch. 2.
Standard prevailing rate of wages, 18-2-402.
Contracts generally, Title 28, ch. 2, 3.
Nondiscrimination provision in all public contracts, 49-3-207.

60-2-112. Competitive bidding — reciprocity. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (6), if the estimated cost of any work exceeds $50,000, the commission shall award the contract by competitive bidding to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The award must be made upon the notice and terms that the commission prescribes by its rules. However, except when prohibited by federal law, the commission shall make awards and contracts in accordance with 18-1-102.

(2) The commission may award a contract by means other than competitive bidding if it determines that special circumstances so require. The commission shall specify the special circumstances in writing.

(3) The commission may enter into contracts with units of local government for the construction of projects without competitive bidding if it finds that the work can be accomplished at lower total costs, including total costs of labor, materials, supplies, equipment usage, engineering, supervision, clerical and accounting services, administrative costs, and reasonable estimates of other costs attributable to the project.

(4) The commission may delegate to the department the authority to enter, without competitive bidding, agreed-upon price contracts for projects costing $50,000 or less.

(5) The commission may award a design-build contract under the design-build contracting program if the provisions of 60-2-137 have been met. The commission may also award a contract using an alternative project delivery method under 60-2-120.

(6) The commission or the department may not enter into a contract for a state-funded highway project or a construction project with a bidder whose operations are not headquartered in the United States unless:

(a) the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country, in which the bidder is headquartered affords companies based in the United States open, fair, and nondiscriminatory access to bidding on highway projects and construction projects located in the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country; and

(b) the department has entered into a reciprocity agreement with or has exchanged letters of information with the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country, that addresses:

(i) the equal and fair treatment of bids originating in the United States and in the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country;

(ii) specific ownership requirements and tax policies in the United States and in the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country, that may result in the unequal treatment of all bids received, regardless of their origin;

(iii) the means by which contractors from both the United States and the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country, are notified of highway projects and construction projects available for bid; and

(iv) any other differences in public policy or procedure that may result in the unequal treatment of bids originating in the United States or in the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country, for projects located in either the United States or the foreign country, or province or other political subdivision of that country.

(7) For the purposes of subsection (6), "construction" has the meaning provided in 18-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 9-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4102; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 598, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 443, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 306, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 181, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 192, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 56, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 54, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 111, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 145, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 145, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Modification of Termination Date: Section 7, Ch. 145, L. 2023, amended sec. 6, Ch. 54, L. 2017, by modifying the termination date imposed by Ch. 54 to June 30, 2023. Effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

General powers of county relating to roads and bridges, 7-14-2101.
General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.

60-2-113. Bidder's security — contractor's bond. (1) (a) Subject to subsection (1)(b), whenever the commission calls for competitive bidding, each bidder shall meet all requirements of Title 18, chapter 1, part 2.

(b) The commission may accept electronic bid bonds signed electronically or otherwise verified by the bidder and the surety.

(2) Each contractor awarded a contract by the commission shall meet all requirements set forth in Title 18, chapter 2, part 2. A contract is not considered to be completed until the commission, while formally convened, affirmatively accepts all of the work specified in the contract.

History: En. Sec. 9-103, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4103; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, L. 2009.

60-2-114. Bids for contracts let by commission to contain security, unit price, and signature. Each bid communicated to the commission in response to a request for bids required by this part must comply with the unit price and signature requirements of 18-2-303 and the bid security requirements of 60-2-113 in order for the bid to be accepted.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 282, L. 1999.

60-2-115. Contract let by commission — time for final payment of contract price — interest. (1) Subject to subsections (2) through (4), the department shall comply with the 30-day time period for payment of contracts as provided in 18-2-306 for all contracts let by the commission in accordance with this part.

(2) For the final payment on a contract, the department shall, within 30 days after a request by the contractor for final acceptance, perform an inspection of the project and notify the contractor of whether the department has granted or refused final acceptance.

(3) If the department notifies the contractor that the department has granted final acceptance, the department shall make the final payment of the contract price specified in the contract to the other party to the contract within 90 days after the notice.

(4) (a) If the department notifies the contractor that the department has refused final acceptance, the department shall include with the notice a list of all deficiencies that must be cured before the department will grant final acceptance.

(b) After the contractor has cured all of the deficiencies, the contractor shall request final acceptance by the department. Within 30 days after the contractor's request, the department shall perform an inspection of all of the cured deficiencies.

(c) If the department notifies the contractor of its final acceptance, the department shall make the final payment as provided in subsection (3).

(d) If the department notifies the contractor that the department has refused final acceptance, the department shall:

(i) notify the contractor of any remaining deficiencies; and

(ii) grant final acceptance, subject to any remedy provided under the provisions of Title 28, chapter 2.

(5) When the department grants final acceptance, the department shall immediately consider the contract complete and close the contract.

(6) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Final acceptance" means the department's acceptance of the construction, maintenance, or public works project upon certification by the architect, project engineer, or other representative of the department of final completion of the project.

(b) "Final completion" means that the project has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract documents and all warranties have expired.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 2013.

60-2-116. Payment of contractors and subcontractors. Unless prohibited by federal law, payment under this part of a contractor or subcontractor for services performed by the contractor or subcontractor is governed by the provisions of Title 28, chapter 2, part 21.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 259, L. 2007.

60-2-117. Contract indemnification provisions. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a contract subject to the provisions of this part with a provision that requires one party to the contract to indemnify, hold harmless, insure, or defend the other party to the contract or the other party's officers, employees, or agents for liability, damages, losses, or costs that are caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of the other party or the other party's officers, employees, or agents is void as against the public policy of this state.

(2) A contract subject to the provisions of this part may contain a provision:

(a) requiring one party to the contract to indemnify, hold harmless, or insure the other party to the contract or the other party's officers, employees, or agents for liability, damages, losses, or costs, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees, only to the extent that the liability, damages, losses, or costs are caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of a third party or of the indemnifying party or the indemnifying party's officers, employees, or agents; or

(b) requiring a party to the contract to purchase a project-specific insurance policy, including but not limited to an owner's and contractor's protective insurance, a project management protective liability insurance, or a builder's risk insurance.

(3) This section does not apply to indemnity of a surety by a principal on a contract bond or to an insurer's obligation to its insureds.

(4) As used in this section, "contract" means, with respect to highway construction, an agreement for architectural services, alterations, construction, demolition, design services, development, engineering services, excavation, maintenance, repair, or other improvement to real property, including an agreement to supply labor, materials, or equipment for an improvement to real property.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 259, L. 2007.

60-2-118. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 188, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 2011.

60-2-119. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 54, L. 2017; Sec. 7, Ch. 145, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 163, L. 2019.

60-2-120. Alternative project delivery. (1) The commission may use alternative project delivery methods for letting contracts.

(2) Once the commission, acting on a recommendation of the department, identifies a project for which an alternative project delivery method will be used and approves selection criteria proposed by the department, the department shall prepare and advertise a request for qualifications.

(3) From the responders, the department shall prepare a short list of the highest scoring responders, not to exceed five responders on any single project.

(4) The department shall announce the short list and issue a request for proposals inviting each responder on the short list to submit a technical and price proposal to the department.

(5) The department shall evaluate the technical and price proposals and present to the commission the department's written recommendation to award the contract.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 10, Ch. 145, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 18, 2023.

60-2-121. Authority of commission to prioritize expenditures on railroad crossings — public hearing. (1) The commission shall adopt rules to prioritize the expenditure of funds on railroad crossings.

(2) If requested by the board of county commissioners of any county, the commission shall conduct a public hearing in the affected county on the priority assigned any railroad crossing, and based on the evidence presented at the public hearing, the commission may revise the priority of the railroad crossing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

60-2-122 through 60-2-124 reserved.

60-2-125. Repealed. Sec. 39, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

60-2-126. Designation of public highways — apportionment of funds. (1) For the purpose of apportioning state and federal-aid highway funds, the commission shall designate the public highways and streets to be placed on the following systems:

(a) the national highway system;
(b) the primary highway system;
(c) the secondary highway system; or
(d) the urban highway system.

(2) The commission shall consult with the board of county commissioners of the county in which a highway is located prior to designating a public highway to be placed on the secondary highway system.

(3) The commission shall consult with the appropriate local government authorities prior to designating a highway or street to be placed on the urban highway system.

(4) The commission may designate public highways not placed on the systems listed in subsection (1) as state highways.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Transportation Commission, 2-15-2502.

60-2-127. Allocation of funds for projects. (1) Each year, out of federal-aid highway funds available for construction purposes, the commission shall allocate a portion of the funds for projects located on:

(a) the national highway system;
(b) the primary highway system;
(c) the secondary highway system;
(d) the urban highway system; and
(e) state highways.

(2) In making allocations under subsection (1), the commission shall comply with all applicable provisions relating to the use of federal-aid highway funds contained in Title 23, U.S.C.

(3) Notwithstanding the allocations made available to the secondary and urban highway systems in subsection (1), the commission may, with the concurrence of the appropriate local officials, authorize the use of federal-aid highway funds allocated under subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d) for any project eligible under 23 U.S.C. 133(b) relative to the surface transportation program.

(4) The commission may enter into an agreement with a city, county, or consolidated city-county government, under terms and conditions that the commission determines necessary, to allow the city, county, or consolidated city-county government recipient of urban funds apportioned under 60-3-211 to dedicate all or a portion of the urban fund apportionment to the retirement of the bonds authorized by 7-7-110.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Authority to contract for road work when federal funds involved, 7-14-4108.

60-2-128. Maintenance system — designation of highways. The commission shall designate the public highways that are to be included on the state maintenance system. Except as provided in 60-2-107, the system must include all the highways that the department maintained on July 1, 1976.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Duties of County Surveyor related to roads and bridges in certain counties, 7-4-2812 through 7-4-2815.
Maintenance of frontage roads, 60-5-108.
Violation of size, weight, or load requirements — disposition of fines and forfeited bonds, 61-10-148.

60-2-129. Allocation of funds. (1) The commission may allocate federal-aid highway funds for projects or programs in which all or a portion of the work is on highways that are not located on the highway systems defined in 60-1-103. The allocations must be made without regard to the financial district in which the project or program is located.

(2) Within the programs under its jurisdiction, the commission shall allocate all federal transit administration funds, freight assistance funds, or any funds or grants available by legislative appropriation for the study, design, construction, repair, or improvement of rail or transit intermodal transportation systems.

(3) The commission may authorize the transfer of federal funds between qualified programs, including highway and transit programs.

(4) The commission may delegate the functions and responsibilities under this section to the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Distribution and apportionment of highway funds, Title 60, ch. 3.

60-2-130 through 60-2-132 reserved.

60-2-133. U.S. highway 2 — planning. The commission may direct the department to construct a four-lane highway generally along the present route of U.S. highway 2 from the North Dakota border to the Idaho border in order to increase tourism and to bring economic development to Montana. Planning for the U.S. highway 2 project may be included in any future fiscal plan developed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 2009.

60-2-134. Definitions. For the purposes of 18-8-204, 18-8-205, 60-2-111, 60-2-112, 60-2-120, 60-2-137, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Alternative project delivery method" means a process approved by the commission and recognized by the U.S. department of transportation, federal highway administration, for federal participation under the United States Code and federal regulations.

(b) The term does not include a design-build contract awarded by the commission under 60-2-111(3).

(2) "Design-build contracting" means the process of entering into a single contract between the commission and a design-build contractor in which the design-build contractor agrees to design and build a highway, structure, or facility or any other items required in a request for proposals.

(3) "Design-build contractor" means an individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, or other legally recognized entity that is appropriately licensed in Montana and that provides the necessary design and construction services, including contract administration.

(4) "Design-build or alternative project delivery criteria package" means the document provided by the department that contains the information necessary to guide a prospective design-build contractor in the preparation and submission of a proposal for a design-build or alternative project delivery project.

(5) "Request for proposals" means a part of the design-build or alternative project delivery criteria package that contains a detailed scope of work, including design concepts, technical requirements and specifications, the time allowed for design and construction, the department's estimated cost of the project, the deadline for submitting a proposal, the selection criteria, and a copy of the contract.

(6) "Request for qualifications" means a part of the design-build or alternative project delivery criteria package that contains the desired minimum qualifications of the design-build or alternative project delivery contractor, a scope of work statement, the project requirements, the amount of reimbursement that the commission has determined will be paid to prospective contractors who qualify for the short list but are not awarded a contract, if applicable, and the selection criteria that the department will use in compiling the short list of prospective design-build contractors to consider.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 56, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 111, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 145, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 145, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

60-2-135. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 56, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 192, L. 2003.

60-2-136. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 56, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 192, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 2005.

60-2-137. Design-build contracting process — submission of proposals — department's duties. (1) Once the commission, acting on a recommendation of the department, has identified a project for which the design-build contracting process will be used and the commission has approved selection criteria proposed by the department, the department shall prepare and advertise a request for qualifications.

(2) From the responders to the request for qualifications, the department shall prepare a short list of the responders that it believes are most qualified, not to exceed five responders on any single project.

(3) (a) The department shall announce the short list and issue a request for proposals to each of the prospective design-build contractors on the short list, who may then submit a technical and price proposal to the department.

(b) A technical and price proposal submitted in response to a request for proposals must contain detailed descriptions of the prospective design-build contractor's approach to designing, constructing, and managing the project in accordance with the design-build criteria package. The technical and price proposal must also include the prospective design-build contractor's conceptual design and construction sequence and schedule and the lump-sum price to complete the project.

(4) The department shall evaluate the technical and price proposals and make a written recommendation to the commission regarding the department's selection of the design-build contractor to be awarded the contract.

(5) The prospective design-build contractors who appeared on the department's short list but are not awarded the contract may be paid a stipend, in an amount determined by the commission, for costs incurred in submitting the response to the department's request for proposals.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 192, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 56, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 111, L. 2021.

60-2-138 and 60-2-139 reserved.

60-2-140. Rawhide stampede rustlers and rendezvous trade corridor — planning. The commission shall designate a route, to be known as the rawhide stampede rustlers and rendezvous trade corridor, along the present route of state highway 16 from Glendive to the port of Raymond in order to facilitate trade between Canada and Mexico, to encourage economic development, to enhance the safety of motorists along the route, as appropriate, and to support region connectivity. Planning for the state highway 16 improvements must be included, as appropriate, in any future fiscal plan developed by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2005.

60-2-141. Use of Montana-made wooden materials in highway and road projects. Unless prohibited by federal law, all contracts let by the commission for the construction or reconstruction of the highways located on commission-designated highway systems and state highways, including portions in cities and towns and all contracts entered into under 7-14-4108, must use Montana-made wooden guardrail posts, fenceposts, signposts, and decking when appropriate and when the cost of wooden materials is less than or equal to the cost of other materials.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Use of Montana-made wooden materials in county road projects, 7-14-2142.
Use of Montana-made wooden materials in wooden county bridge projects, 7-14-2407.

60-2-143 and 60-2-144 reserved.

60-2-145. Terminated. Sec. 9, Ch. 111, L. 2021; Sec. 8, Ch. 145, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 2021.

Part 2
Department of Transportation
General Powers and Duties

Part Cross-References

Department of Transportation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 25.
State-owned motor vehicles, Title 2, ch. 17, part 4.
Department of Transportation — grievance procedures, Title 2, ch. 18, part 10.
Cooperative agreements with district weed boards, 7-22-2151.
National defense highway plans, 10-3-107.
Gasoline and vehicle fuels taxes, Title 15, ch. 70.
Connecting roads between state highways and state parks, 23-1-104.
Operation of snowmobiles on public roads, streets, and highways, 23-2-631, 23-2-632.
Enforcement of provisions relating to snowmobiles, 23-2-641, 23-2-642.
Highway safety, Title 61, ch. 2.
Authority for reciprocity agreements, provisions, and reciprocity standards, 61-3-714.
Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.
Shooting from or across road or highway right-of-way prohibited, 61-8-369.
Motor vehicles — size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.
Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.
Aircraft landings and takeoffs on public roads, 67-1-204.
Assistance in airport road construction — Department of Transportation, 67-10-211.
Motor carriers, Title 69, ch. 12.
Outdoor advertising, Title 75, ch. 15, part 1.
Disabled person — hunting from vehicle allowed — exception, 87-2-803.
Coal Board grants for certain highway construction, repair, and maintenance, 90-6-205.
Coal area highway reconstruction program, 90-6-210.

60-2-201. General powers of department. (1) The department may plan, lay out, alter, construct, reconstruct, improve, repair, and maintain highways on the commission-designated highway systems and state highways according to priorities established by and on projects selected and designated by the commission.

(2) The department may cooperate and contract with counties and municipalities to provide assistance in performing these functions on other highways and streets.

(3) The department may review and approve projects for the installation of public works on state highway rights-of-way and authorize a county or municipality to let contracts related to such improvements.

(4) The department shall adopt necessary rules for the construction, repair, maintenance, and marking of state highways and bridges.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4-106, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1977; Sec. 32-2406, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 4-107, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2407, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2406(part), 32-2407(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Transportation Commission, 2-15-2502.
State-owned motor vehicles, Title 2, ch. 17, part 4.
State seal on motor vehicles, 2-17-402.
Local government — special improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12, parts 41 through 43.
General provisions related to municipal utility services, Title 7, ch. 13, part 41.
General provisions related to county roads, Title 7, ch. 14, parts 21 through 26.
General provisions related to municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.
Disposition of highway equipment by bid, 18-6-103.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
Erection of signs, 61-8-704.
Penalty — injury to or removal of sign or marker a misdemeanor, 61-8-713.
When authorities may restrict right to use roadway, 61-10-128.
Outdoor Advertising Act — Department of Transportation, Title 75, ch. 15, part 1.

60-2-202. Duties of department. The department shall:

(1) maintain and preserve the records of the commission in its office at Helena; and

(2) file and preserve copies of all plans, specifications, contracts, estimates, and official acts taken by it or by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 4-109, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2409(2); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 82, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Transportation Commission, 2-15-2502.

60-2-203. Maintenance responsibility. (1) The department shall maintain all public highways or portions of public highways that it maintained on July 1, 1976.

(2) The department shall assume the maintenance responsibilities for paved secondary roads as roads are identified cooperatively by the department and the county or counties in which a paved secondary road or paved secondary road segment is located. The department may phase in maintaining the paved secondary roads but must have completely assumed the responsibilities by January 1, 2001.

History: En. 32-2402.2 by Sec. 2, Ch. 390, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2407.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Duties of County Surveyor related to roads and bridges in certain counties, 7-4-2812.
Duties of County Commissioners concerning county roads, 7-14-2103.
Maintenance of trafficways, 7-14-4107.
Maintenance of frontage roads, 60-5-108.
Unlawful disposal of dead animals, 75-10-213.
Penalty for unlawful dumping, 75-10-233.

60-2-204. Maintenance agreements with local governments. Except as provided in 60-2-203, the department may enter into an agreement with a local governing body to maintain portions of public highways within its boundaries upon terms and conditions as may be agreed upon. However, in the case of highways in the state maintenance system as referred to in 60-2-128 and 60-2-203:

(1) the department shall bear the entire cost of maintenance, operation, and construction work performed by the local governing body pursuant to these agreements; and

(2) the department is responsible for the entire cost of placement and maintenance of all traffic control devices involved in these agreements required by 61-8-203.

History: En. 32-2402.3 by Sec. 3, Ch. 390, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2407.3; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 542, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Duties of County Surveyor related to roads and bridges in certain counties, 7-4-2812.
Duties of County Commissioners concerning county roads, 7-14-2103.
Maintenance of trafficways, 7-14-4107.

60-2-205. Powers of department with respect to highways not located entirely within the state. The department may expend funds for the construction, reconstruction, engineering, administration, betterment, and maintenance of highways designated under 60-2-106. It may do all things necessary or required to carry out fully the cooperation contemplated under Title 23, U.S.C., with regard thereto.

History: En. Sec. 4-108, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2408(2); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-2-206. Compilation of statistics — investigation — consultation. (1) The department shall compile statistics regarding public highways throughout the state and collect all related information deemed expedient.

(2) It shall investigate various methods of construction adapted to different sections of the state and decide the best methods of construction and maintenance of highways, bridges, and road markers.

(3) The department may be consulted at all reasonable times by county officers having care and authority over highways and bridges and shall advise them on construction, repair, alteration, or maintenance.

(4) The department shall furnish such information and advice as may be requested by persons interested in the construction, maintenance, and marking of public highways. It shall at all times lend its aid in promoting highway improvement throughout the state.

History: En. Sec. 4-110, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2410.

Cross-References

General powers of county relating to roads and bridges, 7-14-2101.

60-2-207. Agreements concerning analysis of effects of weight on highways. (1) The department may contract with the United States or any state or group of states or agencies thereof or any nonprofit association, on a joint or cooperative basis, to study, analyze, or test the effects of weights on highways. Studies or tests shall seek solutions to the problems connected with the imposition of motor vehicle weights on highways.

(2) Studies or tests may be made either by designating existing highways or by constructing test strips, including natural resource roads.

History: **En. Sec. 4-111, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2411.**

Cross-References

Motor vehicles — size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.

Coal area highway reconstruction program, 90-6-210.

60-2-208. Seeding along highways. (1) After a segment of a commission-designated highway system or state highway is constructed, the department shall seed barrow pits, slopes, and shoulders to an adaptable perennial grass or combination of perennial grasses and legumes whenever establishment of perennial grass covers seem suitable. The seed must be certified.

(2) The department shall seek joint recommendations and specifications as to time and method of seeding, fertilizing practices, and grass species from the Montana extension service, the experiment station, and the natural resources conservation service.

(3) After a right-of-way in open range has been fenced pursuant to 60-7-103, the department may seed the land within the fence with a grass that may be cropped for hay and may lease the land or sell the right to take the hay to qualified persons.

History: **En. Sec. 4-112, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 255, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2412; amd. Sec. 243, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Montana seed laboratory, 20-25-229.

Forest and conservation experiment station, 20-25-241 through 20-25-245.

Administration of certain islands and abandoned riverbeds, 77-1-103.

60-2-209. Description and plan of new highway or reconstructed or controlled-access facility. (1) Whenever the department establishes the location, width, and lines of any new, reconstructed, or proposed highway or the commission designates a road, street, or highway as a controlled-access facility, the department shall make a description and plan showing the centerline and the established width, the immediate boundary lines of all private property over, across, or through which the highway passes, the name of the owner of the property, the boundaries of that part of the private ownership included within the right-of-way of the highway, the parcel number assigned to that part of each ownership included within the highway right-of-way, together with the project number under which the highway is or is proposed to be constructed or reconstructed.

(2) Reference to the project number, parcel number, and section or quarter section, tract, block, or lot from which the same has been subdivided is a valid description of the parcel in all deeds given to or received from the state in which a parcel is transferred.

History: **En. Sec. 4-113, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2413.**

Cross-References

General power of Department to acquire interests in property, 60-4-102.

Exemption from surveying and platting requirements for lands acquired for state highways, 76-3-209.

60-2-210. Payment of construction and maintenance costs within municipalities. The department, either solely or in conjunction with a city, county, or consolidated local government, shall pay the costs of construction of streets, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks and maintenance of streets, highways, curbs, and gutters that are:

(1) state highway routes; and

(2) within incorporated municipalities.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1627; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

General provisions related to municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.

60-2-211. Bypassing of municipalities — consent of municipal governing body. (1) The department may not construct highway bypasses or highway relocation projects without prior consent of the governing body of an incorporated municipality when the bypasses or projects:

(a) are not part of the national system of interstate highways built under the National Defense Highway Act; and

(b) divert motor vehicles from an existing highway route through a municipality incorporated prior to January 1, 1965.

(2) The department shall notify the governing body of the municipality by certified mail that it proposes to bypass the municipality. A contract may not be let or work commenced until the governing body notifies the department of its consent or until the elapse of 60 days after the notice has been sent by the department to the municipality, whichever first occurs. The failure of the municipality to act and notify the department of its action within the 60-day period is implied consent to the bypass.

(3) Actual consent or refusal to bypass shall be in the form of a resolution duly adopted by a majority of the members of the governing body of the municipality.

(4) The governing body may not withdraw consent once the department has been notified of the consent.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 210, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1628.

Cross-References

Municipalities — governing body defined, 7-1-4121.

60-2-212 reserved.

60-2-213. Interstate emergency maintenance service agreements. (1) The department may negotiate and enter into a bilateral agreement with an adjoining state or province to provide for the exchange of emergency maintenance services on highways located in Montana or the adjoining state or province.

(2) An agreement authorized under subsection (1) must be confined to emergency situations. The department is prohibited from entering into agreements with adjoining states or provinces that would result in an adjoining state or province performing routine maintenance on highways located in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1991.

60-2-214 and 60-2-215 reserved.

60-2-216. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 308, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 658, L. 1987.

60-2-217. Signs identifying mountain ranges — scenic loop highways — costs — responsibility of department. (1) Subject to the provisions of federal law, the department shall design and erect at relevant locations signs, clearly visible to traffic, identifying:

(a) each prominent mountain range that is visible to an occupant of a vehicle traveling on a highway in Montana that is part of the national highway system or primary highway system; and

(b) the junctions with highways that are part of the national highway system or primary highway system in Montana of scenic highways designated under authority of the commission or the department. The signs must mark where the scenic loop leaves and returns to the national highway system or primary highway system.

(2) (a) The department may not pay the cost of the manufacture and erection of the signs provided for in subsection (1)(b) out of funds appropriated to the department.

(b) Scenic loop highway signs are intended to provide tourist information, and the department's responsibility for the construction, maintenance, or traffic operation of the highway so signed is not affected by the signs.

(c) Erection of scenic loop highway signs does not create a scenic highway.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

60-2-218. Welcome and farewell signs — design, erection, maintenance — completion date — exceptions. The department shall:

(1) design, erect, and maintain welcome and farewell signs within Montana at the nearest practical location to the border of the state where each national highway system or primary highway system enters or leaves Montana; and

(2) select locations for the signs consistent with the requirements for public safety and maximum visibility and with all applicable provisions of federal law.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 621, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

60-2-219. Department authorized to accept and expend funds for welcome and farewell signs. The department may accept money from other state agencies, federal agencies, or private persons for the purposes of 60-2-218 and may expend the money received for those purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 621, L. 1989.**

60-2-220. Cultural heritage areas — signs — location and design — funding. (1) Cultural heritage areas are established:

(a) encompassing Silver Bow County and Deer Lodge County;

(b) encompassing Miles City.

(2) Subject to the provisions of federal law, the department shall, as funds are available under subsection (4), erect and maintain at specified locations on the primary and interstate highways in the appropriate areas signs identifying those areas as cultural heritage areas.

(3) The consolidated governments of Butte-Silver Bow and Anaconda-Deer Lodge and the city of Miles City shall design the signs and designate the general locations for the signs. The department shall determine the exact location of each sign.

(4) The department may accept money from other state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, or private persons for the purposes of subsections (2) and (3) and may expend the money received for those purposes.

(5) As used in this section, "department" means the department of transportation provided for in 2-15-2501.

History: **En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 127, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 2005.**

60-2-221. Renumbered 60-2-241. Code Commissioner, 1989.

60-2-222. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 667, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 667, L. 1989.**

60-2-223. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 667, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 667, L. 1989.**

60-2-224. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 509, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 667, L. 1989.**

60-2-225. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 123, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 384, L. 2017.**

60-2-226 through 60-2-239 reserved.

60-2-240. Use of postconsumer recycled materials in highway construction projects. (1) The department shall use postconsumer recycled material in federal and state highway construction projects, including but not limited to use as:

(a) roadway fill material;

(b) roadway aggregates;

(c) bedding material;

(d) foundation material; and

(e) filter material.

(2) The department shall take procedural steps to provide for the incorporation of postconsumer recycled material into a highway project to ensure that:

(a) road construction projects use postconsumer recycled material when the cost is less than or equal to the cost of other materials used for the same purpose; and

(b) engineering standards demonstrate the acceptable use of postconsumer recycled material for a project.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "postconsumer recycled material" means recycled glass processed into glass cullet, reclaimed asphalt and concrete, and recycled tires.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 2011.

60-2-241. Prohibited materials. Neither the department nor any agency of state or local government may use mineral slag in road sanding or snow removal within one-fourth mile of lakes and within 100 yards of streambeds.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1987; Sec. 60-2-221, MCA 1987; redes. 60-2-241 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

Cross-References

Streambeds, Title 75, ch. 7, part 1.
Lakeshores, Title 75, ch. 7, part 2.

60-2-242. Markers — commemorative highways. (1) As funds are available under subsection (2), the department may design and erect signs along the commemorative highways designated in 60-1-202 through 60-1-207 and 60-1-210 identifying the routes and providing interpretive information.

(2) The department may accept money from other state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, or private persons for the purposes of subsection (1) and may expend the money received for those purposes.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), private persons includes commonly recognized military veterans' organizations, including but not limited to the veterans of foreign wars, the American legion, the disabled American veterans, the Vietnam veterans of America, and the military order of the purple heart.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 538, L. 2003.

60-2-243. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1999.

60-2-244. Posted notice required at rest areas — human trafficking hotline — invasive species prevention. The department of transportation shall display at each rest area within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate highways and other state highways:

(1) a poster created by the department of justice pursuant to 44-4-1501 that provides information regarding the national human trafficking resource center hotline; and

(2) a poster created by the invasive species council pursuant to 80-7-1203 that provides information related to preventing the spread of invasive species.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

60-2-245. Construction projects — project impacts — notice. (1) (a) After the commission has selected and prioritized a construction project under 60-2-110, the department or the commission shall determine whether the project will have a substantial impact on the public. If the department or the commission determines that the project will have a substantial impact, the department shall ensure that the public, in the area where the project is located and in areas adjacent to the project area, as provided in subsection (3)(a)(i), is notified of the project and is provided with periodic updates on the status of the project as provided in this section.

(b) A project with a substantial impact includes but is not limited to:

(i) a project for which additional right-of-way is necessary for project completion; and

(ii) the initial installation of rumble strips within 200 yards of a residential building, as measured from any point on a prospective rumble strip to any part of a residential building.

(2) (a) The department shall engage the public through informational meetings or other appropriate means at major milestones in phases of the project, from the selection of the project by the commission to project completion. To engage and inform the public, the department shall:

(i) place and maintain current information regarding the status of the project in a prominent location on the department's website;

(ii) use newspaper, television, and radio formats as appropriate to provide information to the public regarding the status of the project;

(iii) investigate the use of other types of media, such as electronic social media, to provide information to the public regarding the status of the project; and

(iv) maintain an electronic notification list as provided in subsection (3).

(b) For the purposes of this section, phases of a project include but are not limited to survey, design, and right-of-way phases of a project.

(3) (a) For each proposed project identified under subsection (1), the department shall maintain a list of:

(i) all local government and tribal government entities within which the project will be ocated that are likely to be impacted by the project or that are adjacent to the project area; and

(ii) organizations and associations that represent motorists and commercial motor vehicle companies and operators that regularly conduct business in the project area and any other organizations or entities that represent travelers or those who regularly use highways in the project area for recreational or business purposes.

(b) The department shall notify the entities identified in subsection (3)(a) when the commission selects a construction project as provided in subsection (1) and shall provide project updates of major milestones in phases of the project through electronic communication to any entity that submits a request to receive updates.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 2019.**

Part 3
Ports of Entry, Checking Stations, and Interstate Cooperation

Part Cross-References

Time for payment of size, weight, and load fees by nonresidents — disposition, 61-10-213.
Importation of salmonid fish and eggs, 87-3-221 through 87-3-224.

60-2-301. Ports of entry and checking stations authorized. To augment and help make more efficient and effective the enforcement of certain laws of the state, the department shall establish temporary or permanent ports of entry or checking stations upon highways in he state at places which the department considers necessary and advisable.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2419.**

Cross-References

Size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.

60-2-302. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1983.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2420.**

60-2-303. Cooperation in use of ports of entry and checking stations. The department shall cooperate with other agencies and political subdivisions of this state in the use of the ports of entry or checking stations so that maximum use can be made of the facilities in enforcement of the laws of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 137, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2421.**

Cross-References

Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement, Title 61, ch. 10, part 11.
Enforcement of salmonid fish and eggs importation provisions at ports of entry and checking stations, 87-3-224.

60-2-304 through 60-2-310 reserved.

60-2-311. Interstate agreements for tax and fee collection and port operation. The department may negotiate and enter into a bilateral agreement with an official of an adjoining state or province to provide for the collection by either party state or province of highway user fees, registration fees, permit fees, fuel taxes, or any other fees and taxes that may be prescribed by law or rule. An agreement may further provide for the construction and joint operation of ports of entry along state borders.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Multistate Tax Compact, Title 15, ch. 1, part 6.
Gasoline and vehicle fuels taxes, Title 15, ch. 70.
Certificates of title, registration, and taxation of motor vehicles, Title 61, ch. 3.
Gross vehicle weight fees, 61-10-124; 61-10-125; Title 61, ch. 10, part 2.
Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement for size and weight standards, Title 61, ch. 10, part 11.

Parts 4 and 5 reserved

Part 6
Scenic-Historic Byways Program

60-2-601. Scenic-historic byways program — advisory council — expenditure of funds. (1) There is a scenic-historic byways program. The commission may designate roads to be included as part of the program and may add or delete roads from the program. The commission may not designate a road as a scenic-historic byway without the concurrence of the affected local governments and the agencies responsible for maintenance and operation of the road. A road or right-of-way across federal land that was granted by 43 U.S.C. 932 and recognized by 43 U.S.C. 1701 may be considered for inclusion in the program.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision of 2-15-122, the commission shall appoint an advisory council for the scenic-historic byways program.

(3) The advisory council is a technical oversight council composed of no more than 11 members who must have expertise in one or more of the subjects of tourism, visual assessment, Montana history, resource protection, economic development, transportation, or planning. One member of the advisory council must be a representative of the Montana chamber of commerce.

(4) The advisory council shall:

(a) assist the department and the commission in designing the program;

(b) review applications for nominating roads to the scenic-historic byways program; and

(c) recommend to the commission roads that should be included in or deleted from the scenic-historic byways program.

(5) The department, upon the direction of the commission, may expend any funds appropriated for or otherwise available to the scenic-historic byways program.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 1999.

60-2-602. Scenic-historic byways program — rules. (1) The department shall adopt rules to effectively administer the scenic-historic byways program. The rules must include the criteria that will be considered for designating a road for inclusion in the scenic-historic byways program.

(2) In developing the criteria, to be included in the rules, for designating a road for inclusion in the scenic-historic byways program, the advisory council, commission, and department shall specifically address:

(a) factors that allow each locality choosing to participate in or seeking participation in the scenic-historic byways program the opportunity to:

(i) enhance the experience of the traveling public;

(ii) stimulate or allow for economic development and new marketing strategies; or

(iii) preserve intrinsic resources for the benefit of future generations;

(b) a methodology by which a locality choosing to participate in or seeking participation in the scenic-historic byways program may participate in the national scenic byways program described in section 1047 of Public Law 102-240;

(c) means by which a road may be excluded from designation as a scenic-historic byway by:

(i) an incorporated municipality for a road or segment of a road within its jurisdiction; or

(ii) a landowner for a road or segment of a road adjacent to the landowner's private property;

(d) factors to be considered in assessing the intrinsic, scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, educational, or natural qualities of the road nominated for inclusion in the scenic-historic byways program;

(e) factors to be considered in a locality's corridor management plan, including that the plan:

(i) serves as a visioning tool to provide direction for enhancing and marketing the corridor but not as a land management document, zoning tool or mandate, highway improvement scoping or prioritization document, or highway management document;

(ii) accommodates commerce and commercial vehicles and maintains a safe and efficient level of highway services;

(iii) protects private property rights, including assurances that the private property rights of a person who owns land adjacent to or visible from the road are not in any way diminished by the road being designated a scenic-historic byway or are accommodated through mutually agreeable compensation;

(iv) precludes the locality having adopted the corridor management plan from establishing goals or commitments outside the locality's jurisdiction; and

(v) has accommodated all jurisdictions affected or to be affected by the designation of a road as a scenic-historic byway; and

(f) procedures to ensure that localities choosing to participate in the scenic-historic byways program:

(i) may exclude from designation any segment of a highway that is inconsistent with the state's criteria for designating scenic-historic byways. Within an excluded segment, a locality may allow off-premises advertising in the form of billboards or painted signs, subject to applicable federal, state, or local laws.

(ii) may use signage recognized as exceptions or as information signs in all areas along a designated route, provided that the signage complies with 23 U.S.C. 131, Title 60, chapter 5, part 5, Title 75, chapter 15, part 1, and all applicable state or locally adopted rules, requirements, and restrictions.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1999.

60-2-603 through 60-2-605 reserved.

60-2-606. Terminated. Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3
DISTRIBUTION AND APPORTIONMENT OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

Part 1 — Federal-Aid Funds

60-3-101. Assent to federal law.
60-3-102. Repealed.
60-3-103. Repealed.
60-3-104. Repealed.
60-3-105. Repealed.

Part 2 — State Funds

60-3-201. Distribution and use of proceeds of gasoline tax.
60-3-202. Repealed.
60-3-203. Repealed.
60-3-204. Repealed.
60-3-205. Apportionment of state funds to primary highway system.
60-3-206. Apportionment of funds to secondary highway system.
60-3-207. Secondary highway information.
60-3-208. Repealed.
60-3-209. Repealed.
60-3-210. Repealed.
60-3-211. Apportionment of state funds to urban highway system.
60-3-212. Interim apportionment to match federal-aid funds.
60-3-213. Repealed.
60-3-214. Repealed.
60-3-215. Repealed.
60-3-216. Terminated.
60-3-217. Terminated.
60-3-218. Terminated.
60-3-219. Allocation of funds — apportionment.
60-3-220 reserved.
60-3-221. Repealed.
60-3-222. Repealed.
60-3-223. Repealed.
60-3-224. Repealed.
60-3-225. Repealed.
60-3-226 through 60-3-230 reserved.
60-3-231. Repealed.
60-3-232. Repealed.
60-3-233. Repealed.
60-3-234. Repealed.

Part 3 — Shared-Use Paths

60-3-301. Short title.
60-3-302. Shared-use path defined.
60-3-303. Shared-use paths to be established — funding.
60-3-304. Duties of department of transportation.
60-3-305 through 60-3-307 reserved.
60-3-308. Shared-use path project.
60-3-309. Allocation of funds.

Chapter Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Public contractor's fees and tax, Title 15, ch. 50.
Gasoline and vehicle fuels taxes, Title 15, ch. 70.
Budgeting and appropriations, Title 17, ch. 7.
Special property tax applications — custom combines, 61-10-130.
Acceptance of gift of lands to state, 77-1-213.
Coal Board grants for certain highway construction, repair, and maintenance, 90-6-205.
Coal area highway reconstruction program, 90-6-210.

Part 1
Federal-Aid Funds

Part Cross-References

Authority to contract for road work when federal funds involved, 7-14-4108.

60-3-101. Assent to federal law. (1) The legislature, for and on behalf of the state, assents to the provisions of Title 23, U.S.C.

(2) The department may, for and on behalf of the state, enter into all contracts and agreements with the United States or any officer, department, or bureau thereof relating to the construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance of highways in the state.

(3) The department may make all rules necessary to comply with the provisions of the laws assented to and all other laws granting aid for public highways and to obtain for the state the full benefits of such laws.

(4) The department may do all other things necessary or required to carry out fully the cooperation contemplated by the acts of congress assented to.

History: En. Sec. 4-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2401; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

60-3-102. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2422.

60-3-103. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2423; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-104. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 286, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2424.

60-3-105. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2425; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

Part 2
State Funds

Part Cross-References

Payment of cost of weed control program, 7-22-2144.
Coal Board grants for certain highway construction, repair, and maintenance, 90-6-205.

60-3-201. Distribution and use of proceeds of gasoline tax. (1) Money received in payment of the gasoline tax under 15-70-403, except those amounts paid out of the department's suspense account for gasoline tax refund, must be deposited as provided in 15-70-403(2) and (3) and used and expended as provided in 15-70-126 and 15-70-128 and this section. After deductions for amounts paid out of the suspense account for gasoline tax refunds, the remainder of the gasoline tax collected under 15-70-403 is allocated as follows:

(a) 9/10 of 1% to the state park account;

(b) 15/28 of 1% to a snowmobile account in the state special revenue fund;

(c) 1/8 of 1% to an off-highway vehicle account in the state special revenue fund to be used pursuant to 23-2-825;

(d) 1/25 of 1% to the aeronautics revenue fund of the department under the provisions of 67-1-301; and

(e) the remaining amount as provided for in 15-70-126 and 15-70-128.

(2) The department shall, in expending this money, carry forward construction from year to year, using the money expended in accordance with this title. Nothing in this title conflicts with Title 23 of the United States Code and the rules by which it is administered.

(3) The department may enter into cooperative agreements with the national park service and the federal highway administration for the purpose of maintaining national park approach roads in Montana.

(4) Money credited to the state park account in the state special revenue fund may be used only for the creation, improvement, and maintenance of state parks where motorboating is allowed. The legislature finds that of all the fuel sold in the state for consumption in internal combustion engines, except fuel for which refunds have been made, not less than 9/10 of 1% is used for propelling boats on waterways of this state.

(5) (a) Money credited to the snowmobile account may be used only to develop and maintain facilities open to the general public at no admission cost, to promote snowmobile safety, for enforcement purposes, and for the control of noxious weeds.

(b) Of the amounts deposited in the snowmobile account:

(i) 13% of the amount deposited must be used by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to promote snowmobile safety and education and to enforce snowmobile laws. Two-thirds of the 13% deposited must be used to promote snowmobile safety and education and one-third of the 13% deposited must be used for the enforcement of snowmobile laws.

(ii) 1% of the amount deposited must be credited to the noxious weed management special revenue fund provided for in 80-7-816.

(c) The legislature finds that of all fuels sold in this state for consumption in internal combustion engines, except fuel for which refunds have been made, not less than 15/28 of 1% is used for propelling registered snowmobiles in this state.

(6) The legislature finds that of all fuel sold in this state for consumption in internal combustion engines, except fuel for which refunds have been made, not less than 1/8 of 1% is used for propelling off-highway vehicles in this state.

(7) Money credited to the aeronautics operations account provided for in 67-1-308 may be used only to develop, improve, and maintain facilities open to the public at no admission cost and to promote aviation safety. The legislature finds that of all the fuel sold in this state for consumption in internal combustion engines not less than 1/25 of 1% is used for propelling aircraft in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 4-301, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 356, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 100, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 477, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, and Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2601; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 298, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 558, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 698, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 356, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 442, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 220, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 455, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 123, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 123, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Distributor's gasoline or special fuel tax, Title 15, ch. 70, part 4.

60-3-202. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

History: **En. 32-2407.4 by Sec. 6, Ch. 390, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2407.4; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 220, L. 2015.**

60-3-203. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-306, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2603; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 1983.

60-3-204. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-308, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2605; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1981.

60-3-205. Apportionment of state funds to primary highway system. (1) Each year, the commission, based on recommendations developed by the department, shall apportion an amount of federal-aid highway funds for the primary highway system.

(2) The department shall develop the allocation recommendations through an asset management-based approach, including an analysis of future performance and condition of the primary highway system as a function of anticipated funding levels and improvement strategies.

(3) A financial district may not receive more than one-third of the total funds apportioned for the primary highway system. If a financial district would receive more than one-third of the total funds apportioned under the analysis in subsection (2), its allocation is limited to the one-third maximum and any excess funds that it would have received must be reallocated among the other districts according to the analysis.

(4) To the extent necessary to permit the orderly programming and construction of projects, the commission may transfer and obligate allocated primary highway system funds for any project located on the interstate highway or other national highway system routes within a financial district.

History: En. Sec. 4-309, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2606; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

60-3-206. Apportionment of funds to secondary highway system. (1) Each fiscal year the department shall apportion at least 65% of the federal-aid highway funds allocated for the secondary highway system among the districts for capital construction needs. The remainder of the funds must be used by the department for secondary highway system pavement preservation. The proportion that each district receives is computed on the following basis:

(a) 30% in the ratio of land area in each district to the total land area in the state;

(b) 35% in the ratio of the rural population in each district to the total rural population in the state;

(c) 30% in the ratio of the rural road mileage in each district to the total rural road mileage in the state;

(d) 5% in the ratio of the rural bridge square footage in each district to the total rural bridge square footage in the state.

(2) To the extent necessary to permit orderly programming and construction of projects, obligations in a district may exceed the amount apportioned to that district if a majority of the boards of county commissioners of the counties in another district approve the donation of the extra amount. The amount of excess obligations must be deducted from future apportionments to that recipient district and returned to the donor district.

(3) For the purposes of this section, terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Capital construction" means a highway or bridge project undertaken to improve structural strength, increase capacity, or eliminate hazardous design features. A capital construction project may include paved or gravel road reconstruction and rehabilitation.

(b) "District" means the transportation commission districts identified in 2-15-2502.

(c) "Pavement preservation" means a project undertaken to extend the useful life of a paved road.

(d) "Rural bridge square footage" means the total square footage of all deck areas of structures 20 feet long or longer located on the roadways that are used to calculate rural road mileage as provided in subsection (3)(f).

(e) "Rural population" means the total population of all of the counties in a district as reported in the latest decennial federal census less the population in cities over 5,000 persons and their unincorporated fringe urban areas as determined by the department, using the latest decennial federal census.

(f) (i) "Rural road mileage" means all road mileage on roads functionally classified and approved by the transportation commission as major collectors or minor arterials, exclusive of road mileage on the primary highway system.

(ii) Road mileage within national parks or road mileage that lies within incorporated cities over 5,000 persons and their unincorporated fringe urban areas, whose population is determined by the department, using the latest decennial federal census, is not considered rural road mileage.

(iii) Rural road mileage reported by the road inventory of the department must be used in determining rural road mileage.

(4) For the purpose of determining secondary highway capital construction priorities within a district, each board of county commissioners in a district has one vote and the department has two votes. An existing paved secondary highway may not be converted to a graveled surface without the concurrence of the board of county commissioners in the county where the road is located.

History: En. Sec. 4-310, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2607; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Classification of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 4.

60-3-207. Secondary highway information. On or before November 30 of each year, the department shall inform each board of county commissioners of:

(1) the total amount of secondary highway funds and the amount apportioned to each financial district;

(2) the location of proposed secondary highway projects, when the information is available;

(3) any other matters regarding secondary highway construction which the department considers advisable and of interest to the counties.

History: En. Sec. 4-311, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2608; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 22, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Duties of County Commissioners concerning county roads, 7-14-2103.
Reports to Department of Transportation, 7-14-2105.
Transfer to state of county responsibility for right-of-way, 7-14-2109.

60-3-208. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2607.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2607.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, L. 1981.

60-3-209. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-312, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2609; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-210. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-313, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2610; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 22, L. 1981.

60-3-211. Apportionment of state funds to urban highway system. (1) Each fiscal year, the department shall apportion the federal-aid highway funds allocated for the urban highway system to the urban areas in the state as delineated and reported in the latest federal census with populations of 5,000 or more in the ratio of urban population in each urban area to the total urban population in all urban areas in the state.

(2) For the purpose of this section, "urban population" is defined as population within the urban area, as reported in the latest federal census, with a population of 5,000 or more and that population within the adjusted and federal highway administration-approved fringe areas based on the latest federal census.

(3) To the extent necessary to permit orderly programming and construction of projects, obligations in any urban area may exceed the amount apportioned to that urban area. The amount of any excess obligations must be deducted from future apportionments to that urban area.

History: En. Sec. 4-314, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2611; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 22, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 2013.

60-3-212. Interim apportionment to match federal-aid funds. During the interim between legislative sessions, the department of transportation is delegated power and authority to develop formulas to apportion state construction funds in an equitable manner consistent with the intent of this title to match federal-aid funds for highway systems or purposes not enumerated in this title. Such apportionment formulas shall be valid only until approved, modified, or rejected by the next legislative session.

History: En. 32-2612 by Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2612; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Legislative sessions — time and place of meeting, 5-2-103.

60-3-213. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. 32-2613 by Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2613; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

60-3-214. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 4-307, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2604; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 22, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1981.

60-3-215. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

History: En. 32-2614 by Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2614; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-216. Terminated. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 456, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 20, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 191, L. 1991.

60-3-217. Terminated. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 456, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 541, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

60-3-218. Terminated. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 456, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 541, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 39, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 87, L. 1993.

60-3-219. Allocation of funds — apportionment. The federal-aid highway funds allocated to the primary highway system for construction purposes must be apportioned among the five financial districts, corresponding to and congruent with the transportation commission districts established in 2-15-2502.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1995.

60-3-220 reserved.

60-3-221. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2615 by Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2615; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-222. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2616 by Sec. 2, Ch. 106, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2616.

60-3-223. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2617 by Sec. 3, Ch. 106, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2617.

60-3-224. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2618 by Sec. 4, Ch. 106, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2618.

60-3-225. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2619 by Sec. 5, Ch. 106, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2619; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 22, L. 1981.

60-3-226 through 60-3-230 reserved.

60-3-231. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2620 by Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2620; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-232. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2621 by Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2621; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

60-3-233. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2622 by Sec. 3, Ch. 105, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2622.

60-3-234. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1985.

History: En. 32-2623 by Sec. 4, Ch. 105, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 31, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2623; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 22, L. 1981.

Part 3
Shared-Use Paths

Part Cross-References

Traffic safety program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 1.
Traffic regulations, Title 61, ch. 8.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Bicycle traffic, Title 61, ch. 8, part 6.
Bicycles or mopeds on sidewalks and bike lanes, 61-8-608.
Bicycle or moped racing — when lawful, 61-8-609.

60-3-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Shared-Use Path Act".

History: En. 32-2624 by Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2624; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 250, L. 2017.

60-3-302. Shared-use path defined. As used in this part, "shared-use path" means a multiuse path that is separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space, pavement markings, or a barrier within a highway right-of-way and that is usable for transportation purposes by pedestrians, runners, bicyclists, skaters, equestrians, and other nonmotorized users. A sidewalk, as defined in 61-8-102, is not a shared-use path.

History: En. 32-2625 by Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2625; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 250, L. 2017.

60-3-303. Shared-use paths to be established — funding. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1)(b), the commission or the department or a county or city, with funds received from the commission or the department, may construct or extend a shared-use path:

(i) wherever a highway, road, or street is being constructed, reconstructed, or relocated;

(ii) at any time along a highway, road, or street under state jurisdiction; or

(iii) if the construction enhances traffic safety and convenience.

(b) Funds allocated by the department pursuant to 60-3-309 may be used for the purposes described in subsection (1)(a) of this section only as provided in 60-3-309(3).

(2) A shared-use path may not be established under subsection (1):

(a) if the cost of establishing the path is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use; or

(b) if sparsity of population, other available ways, or other factors indicate an absence of any need for the path.

(3) The commission shall let to contract in any period of 5 consecutive fiscal years not less than an average of $200,000 each year to construct or extend shared-use paths. The department shall establish accounting procedures to document compliance with this subsection.

History: En. 32-2626 by Sec. 3, Ch. 544, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2626; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 250, L. 2017.

60-3-304. Duties of department of transportation. (1) The allocation of available funds for the maintenance, repair, and establishment of shared-use paths and the expenditure of funds as authorized by this part are primarily for the maintenance and repair of shared-use paths and for the promotion of traffic safety on the highways, roads, and streets of the state.

(2) The transportation commission shall, when requested, provide technical assistance and advice to cities and counties in carrying out the purpose of this part.

(3) The department of transportation shall:

(a) maintain an inventory of all shared-use paths located in the right-of-way of each state-maintained federal-aid highway in Montana;

(b) maintain a plan for maintenance and repair of all the shared-use paths described in subsection (3)(a);

(c) recommend construction and maintenance standards for shared-use paths;

(d) provide a uniform system of signing shared-use paths that applies to all shared-use paths, whether under the jurisdiction of the commission or a city or county; and

(e) as provided in 60-3-309, allocate funds in the account established in 61-3-321(21).

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), shared-use paths may not be used by motorized vehicles.

(b) The transportation commission, a city or county, or the commission jointly with a city or county may authorize the use of snowmobiles on all or a portion of a shared-use path under its jurisdiction.

History: **En. 32-2627 by Sec. 4, Ch. 544, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2627; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 2017.**

60-3-305 through 60-3-307 reserved.

60-3-308. Shared-use path project. The department of transportation shall, to the extent funds are available pursuant to 60-3-309:

(1) establish a project for the maintenance and repair of shared-use paths described in this part and for educating users of shared-use paths;

(2) contract for services to produce, disseminate, and deliver safety information and programs to pedestrians and bicyclists. The contract must be with an entity that has a demonstrated ability to provide safety information on a statewide basis to pedestrians and bicyclists.

(3) consider adding signage along certain shared-use paths that designate walking pathways of at least 1,320 feet that may be referred to as "Take a Break - Take a Walk" pathways.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 2017.**

60-3-309. Allocation of funds. (1) Of the total funds in the account established in 61-3-321(21)(a):

(a) in fiscal year 2018 only, an amount not to exceed $50,000 must be transferred to the department of justice to reprogram the software and equipment of the department and the department's vendor to accommodate the optional fee provided for in 61-3-321(21); and

(b) of the remainder in fiscal year 2018 and for succeeding fiscal years:

(i) 20% of the total must be allocated to the department of transportation to be used for bicycle and pedestrian education throughout the state as provided in 60-3-308(2); and

(ii) 80% of the total must be allocated as provided in subsection (2) by the department of transportation to each of the five districts established in 2-15-2502.

(2) The amount of funds to be allocated to a district is equal to the total amount of optional registration fees provided for in 61-3-321(21)(a) collected in the district divided by the total amount of the optional registration fees provided for in 61-3-321(21)(a) collected for the entire state.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the total funds allocated to a district under subsection (1)(b)(ii) must be used within the district for the maintenance and repair of shared-use paths described in this part. At least 10% of the funds allocated to a district under subsection (1)(b)(ii) must be used to maintain or repair shared-use paths that are not part of the state-maintained federal-aid highway system.

(4) (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4)(b), if all of the shared-use paths in the district are maintained and repaired at a level that meets or exceeds the standards established pursuant to 60-3-304(3)(c) or if there are no shared-use paths in the district that are not part of the state-maintained federal-aid highway system, any funds remaining in a fiscal year may be used to construct new shared-use paths within the district.

(b) Prior to the construction or extension of a shared-use path, the department shall enter into a maintenance agreement with the county or municipality, or both, in which the path is proposed to be constructed or extended. The maintenance agreement may provide that maintenance be conducted by the county or the municipality, by both the county and the municipality, by the department, or by a combination of those entities. Based on the maintenance agreement and available funding, the department shall transfer funds from the account established in 61-3-321(21)(a) to the appropriate county or municipality as provided for in the maintenance agreement. If the maintenance agreement provides for maintenance by the department, the department shall use the funds in the account for that purpose.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 250, L. 2017.**

CHAPTER 4
ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

Part 1 — Acquisition of Property

60-4-101. Rights acquired by public in highway.
60-4-102. General power of department to acquire interests in property.
60-4-103. Purposes for which property acquired.
60-4-104. Exercise of right of eminent domain — presumption.
60-4-105. Acquisition of whole parcel — sale of excess.
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60-4-109. Irrigable lands rendered unusable — unpaid construction costs.
60-4-110. Highway crossing railroad, canal, or ditch.
60-4-111. Acquisition of property for controlled-access facility.

Part 2 — Disposition of Property

60-4-201. Exchange of interest in real property.
60-4-202. Sale of interest in real property.
60-4-203. Conduct of sale.
60-4-204. Repealed.
60-4-205. Private sale if no bid or offer.
60-4-206. Sale of personal property and printed matter.
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60-4-213. Purpose.
60-4-214. Definitions.
60-4-215. Application of other laws.
60-4-216. Procedure for abandonment.
60-4-217. Criteria for abandonment.
60-4-218. Title.

Part 3 — Relocation of Displaced Persons (Repealed)

Part 4 — Relocation of Utilities

60-4-401. Occupancy and relocation — definitions.
60-4-402. Occupancy and relocation of utility facilities — rules.
60-4-403. Relocation — costs.

Part 5 — Collaborative Broadband Installation

60-4-501. Broadband deployment.

Part 6 — Right-Of-Way Use Agreements

60-4-601. Interstate right-of-way — department role.

Chapter Cross-References

Duty to notify district weed board when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.
Availability of remedies — liability, Title 27, ch. 1.
State lands — transfers and reservations of property interests, Title 77, ch. 2.

Part 1
Acquisition of Property

Part Cross-References

Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.; Title 70, ch. 30.
Right to construct pipeline, 69-13-103, 69-13-104.
Owner of land bounded by road, 70-16-202.
Transfer of land bounded by highway — what passes, 70-20-307.
Local governments may acquire property, 76-5-1108.
Contracts for use of railroads and highways, 76-5-1109.

60-4-101. Rights acquired by public in highway. By taking or accepting land for a highway, the public may acquire either a fee simple or any lesser estate or interest.

History: En. Sec. 8-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3901.

Cross-References

Classification of interests in real property, Title 70, ch. 15, part 2.

60-4-102. General power of department to acquire interests in property. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the department of transportation may acquire by purchase or other lawful manner lands or other real property, excluding oil, gas, and mineral rights, that it considers reasonably necessary for present or future highway purposes. The department may acquire a fee simple or lesser estate or interest. The provisions of 70-30-104(2) do not apply to the acquisition of a fee simple interest under this section.

History: En. Sec. 8-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3902; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 2001.

60-4-103. Purposes for which property acquired. The acquisition of lands or other property or any interest therein for present or future highway purposes includes but is not limited to any of the following purposes:

(1) for rights-of-way, including those necessary for highways within cities;

(2) for exchanging lands or other property or any interest therein for other such lands or interests for rights-of-way or other authorized purposes. The right of eminent domain shall not be exercised for this purpose.

(3) for deposits of road building materials, including rock, gravel, sand, and earth, for reasonably foreseeable future road-building purposes and uses. The right of eminent domain shall not be exercised to acquire any such deposits which constitute a component part of an existing private business enterprise.

(4) for offices, weighing stations, shops, storage yards, buildings, rest areas, informational sites, or communication facilities;

(5) for parks adjoining or near any highway;

(6) for the culture and support of trees or shrubs which benefit any highway by aiding in the maintenance and preservation of the roadbed;

(7) for drainage in connection with any highway;

(8) for the maintenance of an unobstructed view of any portion of a highway so as to promote the safety of the traveling public;

(9) for the construction and maintenance of stock lanes or trails;

(10) for the construction and maintenance or replacement of private or public drainage systems or natural water or drainage courses made necessary by highway construction;

(11) for providing land or other real property easements or rights-of-way for necessary relocation of existing utilities, utility easements, or other easements for facilities or purposes then in place or in effect upon a proposed right-of-way.

History: En. Sec. 8-103, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3903.

Cross-References

Public uses enumerated, 70-30-102.

60-4-104. Exercise of right of eminent domain — presumption. (1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), whenever the department cannot acquire lands or other property or interests in the lands or property at a price or cost that it considers reasonable, it may direct the attorney general or any county attorney to procure the interests by proceedings to be instituted as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all nonaccepting landholders.

(2) The department may not direct the attorney general or any county attorney to procure the interests until it adopts an order declaring that:

(a) public interest and necessity require the construction or completion by the state of the highway or improvement for one of the purposes set forth in 60-4-103;

(b) the interest described in the order and sought to be condemned is necessary for the highway or improvement;

(c) the highway or improvement is planned and located in a manner that will be compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury.

(3) The order creates and establishes a disputable presumption:

(a) of the public necessity of the proposed highway or improvement;

(b) that the taking of the interest sought is necessary for the project;

(c) that the proposed highway or improvement is planned or located in a manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury.

(4) (a) Once the department has acquired at least three-fourths of all the parcels needed to construct a project that has been selected by the commission, it may use the procedures outlined in subsection (5) and this subsection (4) to acquire the remaining parcels required for the project.

(b) Not less than 30 days or more than 45 days after service of the summons and complaint provided for in 70-30-203, the department shall deposit into an account and in the manner provided for in 70-30-302 the estimated fair market value of the property that is to be acquired and that is described in the complaint. Once the funds are deposited, the department may request, by motion filed with the court, an order to show cause why the property should not be placed in the possession of the department as requested in the complaint.

(5) (a) If the condemnee does not file an objection to the motion within 10 days, the court shall issue the preliminary condemnation order as provided in 70-30-206 and place the condemnor in possession of the property as provided in 70-30-311.

(b) If the condemnee files an objection to the motion, the court shall schedule a hearing at which the condemnee shall appear and show cause why the property should not be placed in the possession of the department as requested in the complaint. The hearing must take place not less than 20 days or more than 30 days after the objection is filed. The court shall rule on the condemnor's motion as soon after the hearing as possible. However, the time between the hearing and the court's decision may not exceed 30 days.

(c) The motion shall include a notice specifying that the order sought is a final order on the issue of possession of the property described in the complaint.

History: En. Sec. 8-104, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3904; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Disputable presumptions, 26-1-602.

60-4-105. Acquisition of whole parcel — sale of excess. (1) Whenever any interest in a part of a parcel of land or other real property is to be acquired for highway purposes leaving the remainder in a shape or condition as to be of little market value or to give rise to claims or litigation over severance or other damage, the department may acquire the whole parcel. It may sell or exchange the remainder for other property needed for highway purposes.

(2) Whenever a part of a parcel of land acquired for highway purposes is in a shape or size as to come within the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, the department shall prepare and file the required plat in the office of the county clerk and recorder.

History: En. Sec. 8-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3905; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 23, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, Title 76, ch. 3.

60-4-106. Power to acquire for future. (1) The power conferred by this chapter to acquire interests in lands or other real property includes power to acquire for reasonably foreseeable future needs.

(2) The department may lease unused portions of lands or other real property which are held for highway purposes and interstate highway rights-of-way which are not presently needed for highway purposes on the terms and conditions which it decides. The department may repair, maintain, and care for the property in order to secure rent from it.

(3) All rent received shall be deposited to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 8-106, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3906.

Cross-References

Weed control responsibility, 70-30-314.

Acquisition of buildings and improvements affected, 70-31-305.

60-4-107. Road-building materials. (1) A right-of-way or easement acquired by the department for construction, operation, repair, reconstruction, or maintenance of highways includes, among others, the right to use, remove, relocate, redistribute, or otherwise dispose of gravel and other road-building materials found or located within the boundaries of the right-of-way or easement.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, the gravel or materials are considered to be real property and not minerals.

History: En. Sec. 8-107, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3907.

60-4-108. No compensation in certain cases — exceptions. (1) Whenever the department files a description and plan as provided in 60-2-209, no consideration, allowance, or assessment of values or compensation shall be made in the purchase or condemnation of buildings or improvements or subdivisions placed or erected on the land covered by the plan after the filing.

(2) The establishment of the highway location covered by the description and plan shall be ineffective 1 year after filing if no action to condemn or acquire the property has been commenced.

(3) Nothing in this section or in 60-2-209 applies to crops or similar improvements planted on the lands described. They are governed by 70-30-302.

History: En. Sec. 8-108, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3908.

Cross-References

Acquisition of buildings and improvements affected, 70-31-305.

60-4-109. Irrigable lands rendered unusable — unpaid construction costs. (1) Whenever the department acquires irrigable land for highway purposes or so acquires land as to render other irrigable land unusable for irrigation, it shall pay to the owner of the irrigation or drainage project, in addition to other sums allowed by law, a proportionate share of the unpaid construction costs of the project or drainage district.

(2) The department shall also pay a lump-sum amount to the district sufficient to produce, on an amortized basis for a reasonable period not to exceed 90 years, a sum of money equal to the annual increase in operation and maintenance costs against the remaining lands under irrigation in the district resulting from the severance from the district of the lands acquired by the department and not overcome by bringing new or additional land under irrigation. For the purpose of determining the amount of the lump-sum payment, the annual operation and maintenance assessment of the district shall be considered to be the average for the 5 years, or so many years as the district has assessment experience if less than 5 years, preceding the date of acquisition.

History: En. Sec. 8-116, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3916.

Cross-References

Alteration and determination of irrigation district acreage, Title 85, ch. 7, part 18.
Irrigation districts — sale or transfer of lands, 85-7-2167.

60-4-110. Highway crossing railroad, canal, or ditch. (1) Whenever any commission-designated highway system or state highway is laid out on public lands across any railroad, canal, or ditch, the owners or users thereof must, at their expense, prepare the railroad, canal, or ditch so that the highway may cross it without damage or delay.

(2) When the right to cross is obtained through the judgment of any court, no damages may be awarded.

History: En. Sec. 8-118, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3918; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.
Rights-of-way for irrigation works, 85-7-1909.

60-4-111. Acquisition of property for controlled-access facility. (1) The highway authorities of the state, counties, incorporated cities and towns, respectively, or in cooperation one with the other, may acquire private or public property and property rights for controlled-access highways or controlled-access facilities and service roads. Such rights may include rights of access, air, view, and light. They may be acquired by gift, devise, purchase, or condemnation, in the same manner as may now or hereafter be authorized by law for the acquisition of property or property rights in connection with highways, roads, and streets in their respective jurisdictions.

(2) A right-of-way is hereby given, dedicated, and set apart for controlled-access highways or controlled-access facilities through, over, upon, or across any county road and any street or alley intersecting a controlled-access highway. Acquisition of any county road, street, or alley for use as a controlled-access highway or controlled-access facility shall be deemed a superior and more necessary public use and purpose than the public use or purpose to which such road, street, or alley has theretofore been dedicated.

History: En. Sec. 8-120, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3920.

Cross-References

Local government — acquisition of property for controlled-access facility, 7-14-101.
Controlled-access highway and controlled-access facility defined, 60-5-102.
Controlled-access highway defined, 61-8-102.

Part 2
Disposition of Property

Part Cross-References

Transfer of land bounded by highway — what passes, 70-20-307.
Sale of property acquired for public use when use abandoned — procedure, 70-30-321.
Transfers and reservations of property interests, Title 77, ch. 2.

60-4-201. Exchange of interest in real property. (1) The department may determine that an interest in real property, however acquired by it, is no longer necessary to the laying out, altering, construction, improvement, or maintenance of a highway. Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the department may then exchange the interest, either as entire or partial consideration, for any other interest in real property needed for highway purposes. The department may establish the manner and terms and conditions for the exchange.

(2) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, prior to making the exchange, the department shall notify all landowners whose property is adjacent to the land proposed for exchange. If any of the landowners are interested in buying the land proposed for exchange, the landowners shall notify the department of their interest by registered letter within 30 days of the receipt of the notice of exchange from the department. Upon receipt of a notice of interest, the department shall offer the land proposed for exchange for sale as provided in 60-4-202 and 60-4-203.

(3) The department may enter into an arrangement for exchange solely with a municipality or county for an interest in real property that is a public right-of-way used for transportation purposes. The department may transfer the interest to the municipality or county in exchange for the municipality or county assuming full interest and maintenance authority upon the following conditions:

(a) the real property must be maintained as a public right-of-way for transportation purposes; and

(b) no portion of the interest may be sold to or exchanged with private entities.

History: En. Sec. 8-109, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3909; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 226, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Power to sell, lease, or exchange certain state trust lands, 77-1-204.

60-4-202. Sale of interest in real property. (1) The department may sell an interest in real property if the department determines that the property is not necessary to the laying out, altering, construction, improvement, or maintenance of a highway. Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218 and subsection (2) of this section, if the interest is reasonably of a value in excess of $10,000, sale must be made to the highest bidder at public auction. The sale of an interest at auction must be conducted as provided in 60-4-203.

(2) (a) The department may sell an interest in real property without a public auction directly to:

(i) a federal, state, tribal, or local government;
(ii) an agency of government;
(iii) a school district; or
(iv) a unit of the Montana university system.

(b) The department shall obtain fair market value for the property.

(3) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, before the department sells an interest in real property as provided in subsection (2), the department shall notify all landowners whose property is adjacent to the land proposed for sale. If any of the landowners are interested in buying the land proposed for sale, the landowners shall notify the department of their interest by registered letter within 30 days of the receipt of the notice of sale from the department. Upon receipt of a notice of interest, the department shall offer the land for sale as provided in 60-4-203 and this section.

History: En. Sec. 8-110, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3910; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 226, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2021.

60-4-203. Conduct of sale. (1) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the department shall publish notice of the sale once a week for 4 successive weeks in a newspaper published in the county in which the interest is located and on the department's website. The sale may be held in person in the county where the property is located or through an online auction.

(2) The notice of sale must contain:

(a) the day, date, and time of the beginning of the sale;

(b) a list of all the tracts to be offered for sale with the legal description, which includes the township and range, section number, and subdivision, or reference to the block and lot if surveyed;

(c) the number of acres in unplatted lands;

(d) the appraised value per acre and the appraised value of each lot;

(e) a quarter section listing of nonirrigable farm lands, with grazing lands listed in larger tracts not exceeding one section;

(f) a consecutive series of sales numbers for advertised tracts, if appropriate; and

(g) the terms and conditions of the sale and any additional information the department considers useful.

(3) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, before the sale of an interest having a value in excess of $10,000, the department must have the interest appraised at a price representing a fair market value. The appraised value must be stated in the published notice.

(4) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, a sale of an interest may not be made unless it has been appraised within 6 months prior to the date of the sale. A sale may not be made for less than 90% of the appraised value.

(5) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, title to an interest may not pass from the state until the purchaser has paid the full amount of the purchase price into the state treasury to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 8-111, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3911; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 305, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 279, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 226, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Transfer of real property, Title 70, ch. 20.

60-4-204. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 8-112, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3912.

60-4-205. Private sale if no bid or offer. (1) If, after proper notice is published, the department does not receive a bid at public sale or an offer from the original owner or the owner's successor in interest, it may at any time sell the interest at private sale. At the sale, the department may accept as the purchase price an amount of money not less than 90% of the appraised value.

(2) Title to an interest may not pass from the state until the purchaser has paid the full amount of the purchase price into the state treasury to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 8-113, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3913; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1931, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Effect of transfer, Title 70, ch. 20, part 3.

60-4-206. Sale of personal property and printed matter. (1) The department may sell at public or private sale, as it determines, an interest in personal property, however acquired by it, which it determines is not necessary to the laying out, altering, construction, improvement, or maintenance of a highway.

(2) The department may sell at public or private sale, as it determines, maps, books, pamphlets, or other printed matter prepared or acquired by the department. The department may sell copies of highway records to the public and may set reasonable prices for them.

(3) The proceeds from sales made under this section shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 8-114, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3914.

Cross-References

Public records management, Title 2, ch. 6, parts 10 and 11.
Sale of highway equipment by bid, 18-6-103.
Duties of Department of Transportation, 60-2-202.

60-4-207. Conveyances — execution and contents. (1) Land or an interest in land sold by the department may be conveyed only when full payment has been made for it. Except as provided in subsection (2), land or an interest in land must be conveyed by a deed or patent of conveyance without covenants, stating that the deed or patent was issued under this chapter.

(2) (a) Land or an interest in land that has been constructed, altered, or otherwise used to satisfy wetland mitigation requirements of federal laws or regulations may be conveyed with a perpetual conservation easement that contains the wetland mitigation credit for the department.

(b) (i) The conservation easement must be held by a qualified easement holder defined, for the purpose of this part, as a private, nonprofit organization, a land trust, or a state or federal agency.

(ii) The terms of any agreement to access the wetland mitigation site may not be expanded without the consent of the landowner of the property to which the access agreement applies.

(3) The deed or patent must contain a reservation of easements for rights-of-way for the benefit of the United States and all other reservations to which the land conveyed may be subject.

(4) The deed or patent must be signed by the governor or, in case of the governor's absence or inability, the lieutenant governor. The signature must be attested by the secretary of state and have attached the great seal of the state. The signature need not be acknowledged.

History: En. Sec. 8-115, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State lands — certificate of purchase, 77-2-327.

60-4-208. Abandonment or vacation of commission-designated highway system or state highways. Every commission-designated highway system or state highway once established must continue until abandoned or vacated by operation of law or by judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction or by a proper order of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 8-117, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3917; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Abandonment or vacation of county roads, 7-14-2615.

60-4-209. Abandoned highway property — title vests in contiguous owner. (1) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, upon abandonment by the state in the manner provided in subsection (2) of an interest in real property acquired for the purpose of establishment of a highway, the owner of contiguous real property or the owner's successor in interest is vested with the abandoned interest to the extent provided in subsection (3).

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) a fee simple interest may be abandoned only by the proper order of the commission; and

(b) an interest of less than fee simple may be abandoned in the manner provided in subsection (2)(a), by operation of law, and by judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the interest acquired by the contiguous property owner under subsection (1) is the abandoned interest or portion of the interest:

(a) if there are different contiguous property owners on each side of the abandoned interest, bounded on one side by the contiguous property and on the remaining two opposite sides by lines following the shortest distance from the extreme ends of the contiguous property abutting upon the abandoned interest to the center of the abandoned interest; and

(b) if the owners of the contiguous property on each side of the abandoned interest are the same, bounded on two opposite sides by the contiguous properties and on the two remaining opposite sides by lines following the shortest distance from the extreme ends of the contiguous property on one side of the abandoned interest to the extreme ends of the contiguous property on the other side of the abandoned interest.

(4) For the purpose of this section, an interest in property abandoned by a proper order of the commission includes an interest in property that the commission determines to be unnecessary to the laying out, altering, construction, improvement, or maintenance of a highway, whether or not the commission determines to sell the interest.

(5) Except as provided in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, the interest acquired by a contiguous property owner under subsection (3) is conditioned upon the use of the property for agricultural or noncommercial purposes. If the property is used for commercial purposes or for purposes of future subdivision or other similar development, the property must revert to the state for sale pursuant to this part. This restriction applies to all subsequent holders of title to the property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 226, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Sale of property acquired for public use when use abandoned — procedure, 70-30-321.

Reversion of lands to state, 77-2-314.

60-4-210 through 60-4-212 reserved.

60-4-213. Purpose. The purpose of 60-4-213 through 60-4-218 is to provide for the abandonment of an interest in real property that the department has determined is not necessary to the laying out, altering, construction, improvement, or maintenance of a road or highway. The current abandonment statute, 60-4-209, does not provide for abandonment of only a portion of the right-of-way or for abandonment of highway property where the contiguous property has been subdivided prior to abandonment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 2005.

60-4-214. Definitions. As used in 60-4-213 through 60-4-218, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abandoned interest" means the fee simple or lesser interest in the subject property after the abandonment has been ordered by the commission.

(2) "Abandonment" means cessation of use of right-of-way or activity on the right-of-way with no intention to reclaim or use the right-of-way again.

(3) "Contiguous property" means subdivided parcels along one side of the length of the remainder.

(4) "Remainder" means the area lying between the centerline and the new right-of-way line as determined by the department, in its sole discretion, as necessary for the reconstruction and maintenance of a road or highway.

(5) "Subject property" means that portion of highway right-of-way for which abandonment is sought.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 2005.

60-4-215. Application of other laws. (1) The provisions of 60-2-107(1) through (3), 60-4-201, 60-4-202, 60-4-203, and 60-4-209(1) and (3) through (5) do not apply to abandonment under 60-4-213 through 60-4-218.

(2) The provisions of 60-2-107(4) and (5) apply to abandonment under 60-4-213 through 60-4-218 to the extent that reasonable access must remain after the abandonment.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 2005.

60-4-216. Procedure for abandonment. (1) Upon receipt of a petition, in writing, for the abandonment of the subject property from three or more owners of contiguous property, the department shall prepare an exhibit, setting forth the boundaries of the subject property and identifying the remainder.

(2) The department shall prepare an order of abandonment to propose to the commission.

(3) The proposed order must state that the subject property is subject to all easements and utilities apparent or of record.

(4) Before abandoning the subject property, the commission shall notify the board of county commissioners in writing of its intent to abandon the subject property and shall hold a public hearing in the county or counties affected by the abandonment.

(5) The commission shall publish the notice of proposed abandonment and public hearing for 3 successive weeks in local newspapers within the county.

(6) The commission, in its sole discretion, may enter an order abandoning the subject property.

(7) The order with exhibits attached must be recorded by the department in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county or counties in which the subject property is located.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 2005.**

60-4-217. Criteria for abandonment. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the commission shall enter an order abandoning the subject property upon finding that:

(a) the department has determined that the cost of disposing of the subject property by sale pursuant to 60-4-202 or exchange pursuant to 60-4-201 exceeds the fair market value of the subject property;

(b) a remainder exists to provide reasonable access; and

(c) at least one of the following applies:

(i) the disposal qualifies as an exception to 23 CFR 710.403(d);

(ii) reimbursement of federal funds is not required; or

(iii) the commission agrees to any required reimbursement of federal funds.

(2) An owner of contiguous property who does not object to the proposed receipt of title to the abandoned interest is considered to have consented to the receipt of title.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 226, L. 2005.**

60-4-218. Title. (1) The department is not responsible for apportioning the abandoned interest among the owners of the contiguous property, and the provisions of 60-4-209(3) do not apply to this abandonment.

(2) By consummating the abandonment, neither the department nor the commission gives the covenants set forth in 30-11-110 or warrants title.

(3) The interest acquired by each owner of contiguous property is the abandoned interest in the subject property between the extension of the boundaries of the contiguous property, extending on the same course and intersecting with the linear boundary of the remainder.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 226, L. 2005.**

Part 3
Relocation of Displaced Persons
(Repealed)

60-4-301. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3923.**

60-4-302. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3924.**

60-4-303. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3925(a), (b).**

60-4-304. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3925(c).**

60-4-305. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 426, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3926.**

60-4-306. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 426, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3927.**

60-4-307. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 145, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3928.**

60-4-308. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 426, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3929.

60-4-309. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3930.

60-4-310. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3931.

Part 4
Relocation of Utilities

Part Cross-References

Utility lines and facilities, Title 69, ch. 4.

Relocation of overhead utility lines, Title 69, ch. 4, part 4.

60-4-401. Occupancy and relocation — definitions. For the purposes of this part, unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Cost of relocation" means the amount paid by the utility for material, labor, and equipment properly attributable to the relocation after deducting any increase in the value of the new facility and any salvage value derived from the old facility.

(b) "Cost of relocation" does not mean engineering costs for designing, locating, staking, inspecting, or any other incidental costs of engineering.

(2) "Facility" means a utility's tracks, pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, towers, poles, and other equipment and appliances impacted by a project on a commission-designated highway system or state highway.

(3) "Utility" includes publicly, privately, and cooperatively owned utilities, including water and sewer facilities.

History: En. Sec. 4-116, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2416; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

60-4-402. Occupancy and relocation of utility facilities — rules. (1) The department shall adopt reasonable rules governing right-of-way occupancy by a utility for the following:

(a) installation, construction, maintenance, repair, or system upgrade of all utilities on commission-designated highway systems or state highways;

(b) except as provided in 60-4-403(2) and (3), reimbursement to a utility for the costs of installation, construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, or relocation of facilities; and

(c) issuance of an occupancy permit or, in the case of a facility not within the scope of Title 60, chapter 4, part 4, an encroachment permit.

(2) The rules must provide for right-of-way occupancy and relocation of publicly owned water and sewer facilities. The rules must ensure that the nonhighway use of the right-of-way does not affect the department's ability to maintain and operate the highway in a safe manner.

(3) The permitting provisions of this section do not apply to existing utility facilities or existing facilities not within the scope of Title 60, chapter 4, part 4, lawfully occupying the highway right-of-way on October 1, 2019.

History: En. Sec. 4-114, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2414; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

Use of public right-of-way for utility lines and facilities, 69-4-101.

60-4-403. Relocation — costs. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), 75% of all costs of relocation, dismantling, and removal must be paid by the department as a cost of commission-designated highway systems construction.

(2) The department shall pay for the entire cost of relocating a publicly owned water or sewer facility with 500 or fewer service connectors under the following conditions:

(a) the facility has had 500 or fewer subscribers during the entire year before the letting of the project contract; and

(b) the relocation is the result of state highway or commission-designated highway system construction.

(3) The department shall pay for 85% of all costs of relocating a publicly owned water or sewer facility with more than 500 but fewer than 1,000 service connectors, subject to the following conditions:

(a) the facility had more than 500 but fewer than 1,000 subscribers during the entire year before the letting of the project contract; and

(b) the relocation is the result of state highway or commission-designated highway system construction.

History: En. Sec. 4-115, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2415; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Costs of relocation, 69-4-404.

Part 5
Collaborative Broadband Installation

60-4-501. Broadband deployment. (1) The department shall maintain a list of entities working on broadband deployment in the state.

(2) When the department plans a state highway construction project or a project authorized under 60-4-601 involving construction methods suitable for installing broadband conduit in the state or interstate highway right-of-way or conducive to accessing the utility right-of-way, the department shall notify entities working on broadband deployment of the project to encourage collaborative broadband installation.

(3) The department may adopt administrative rules to implement this section.

(4) As used in this section, "entities working on broadband deployment" includes but is not limited to local governments, nonprofit organizations, cable television companies, telephone companies, and broadband providers eligible for the installation of broadband infrastructure.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 694, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 694, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Part 6
Right-of-Way Use Agreements

60-4-601. Interstate right-of-way — department role. (1) The department of transportation may grant a right-of-way use agreement for the use of longitudinal right-of-way along interstate highways in the state for eligible projects that:

(a) provide evidence that construction and completion will result in a significant investment, a documented positive significant fiscal impact, or both, to the Montana economy within the first year of operation;

(b) are in the public interest; and

(c) are approved by the federal highway administration.

(2) To request a right-of-way use agreement in accordance with this section, the owner of an eligible project must submit an application to the department that demonstrates compliance with subsection (1). The applicant must pay an application fee of $100. The department shall work with the applicant and the federal highway administration throughout the review process and approve or deny the application within 90 days of final approval by the federal highway administration.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c), the department and the applicant shall agree to the payment of the fair market value of the portion of the right-of-way where the project will be located prior to the right-of-way use agreement being granted.

(b) Applicants who seek an exception to paying the fair market value shall submit a request and justification to the department. The department shall submit to the federal highway administration the fair market value exception request for approval. If approved, the department may not charge the applicant for the right-of-way use agreement.

(c) An applicant may propose to the department an alternative to payment of fair market value by offering a comparable in-kind contribution.

(4) The department shall allow approved applicants for eligible projects to:

(a) enter into a right-of-way use agreement for a maximum 30-year term with the possibility of renewal upon expiration of the original term; and

(b) use the right-of-way for the construction and maintenance of project facilities in a safe and efficient manner as set forth in the right-of-way use agreement.

(5) Any relocation of facilities occupying the right-of-way is subject to 60-4-403. The department shall work with applicants to minimize the potential for any future project impacts that may require the relocation of facilities occupying the right-of-way.

(6) The department may adopt rules necessary for the administration of this section, including application fees to be paid by an applicant seeking a right-of-way use agreement and any rules necessary to ensure the state is not prevented from receiving federal funds for highway purposes.

(7) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Eligible project" means a pipeline, fiber optic or other communications-type cables, wireless facility, associated infrastructure, and dedicated power sources.

(b) "Fair market value" means $100 a mile for each year, or $3,000 a mile for a 30-year term right-of-way use agreement. Applicants may choose to pay annually or in a lump sum for the full length of the term.

(c) "Public interest", including the determination of clean energy and broadband infrastructure projects that provide connectivity to Montana citizens, is determined by state policy and federal highway administration guidance and regulation, including but not limited to 23 CFR 710.403.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 694, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 694, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

CHAPTER 5
CONTROL OF ACCESS AND INFORMATION SIGNS

Part 1 — Control of Access

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60-5-528 and 60-5-529 reserved.
60-5-530. Antilittering signs.

Chapter Cross-References

Acquisition of property for controlled-access facility, 7-14-101.

Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.

When authorities may restrict right to use roadway — perishable seed potato load restrictions, 61-10-128.

Aircraft landings and takeoffs on public roads, 67-1-204.

Part 1
Control of Access

Part Cross-References

Traffic control devices, Title 61, ch. 8, part 2.

60-5-101. Policy. The legislature declares it to be the policy of this state to facilitate the flow of traffic and promote public safety by controlling access to:

(1) interstate highways;

(2) throughways and intersections with throughways;

(3) other commission-designated highway systems and state highways.

History: En. Sec. 10-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4301; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

60-5-102. Definitions. When used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Arterial highway" means a state highway designated by the commission as part of the noninterstate component of the national highway system, the primary highway system, and any highway so designated as a part of the secondary highway system that has been constructed and is being used primarily for through traffic on a continuous route.

(2) "Controlled-access facility" means and includes streets, alleys, public roads, private roads, and ways of passage intersecting a controlled-access highway and real property contiguous to the right-of-way of a controlled-access highway.

(3) "Controlled-access highway" means those portions of an interstate highway, throughway, or throughway intersection that the commission designates for through traffic or other commission-designated highway system or state highway over, from, or to which owners or occupants of abutting land or other persons have no easement of access or only a limited easement of access, light, air, or view. It also means those portions of spurs to interstate highways that the commission designates as unsafe or impeded by unrestricted access of traffic from intersecting streets or alleys or public or private roads or ways of passage.

(4) "Existing highway" means and includes highways, roads, and streets established, constructed, and in use on March 2, 1955. It does not include highways, roads, or streets established, constructed, and in use after that date or highways, roads, or streets or portions of highways, roads, or streets relocated after that date.

(5) "Highway authorities" or "authority" means the entities in state, county, and municipal governments that have authority to construct, repair, and maintain highways, roads, and streets.

(6) "Throughway" means a portion of an arterial highway constructed and used for carrying traffic partially or entirely around a town or city or a portion of a town or city.

(7) "Throughway intersection area" means an area within a radius of 300 feet from the point of intersection of the centerlines of a throughway and a public road, street, or highway.

History: En. Sec. 10-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4302; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Controlled-access highway, 61-8-102.

Through highway, 61-8-341.

60-5-103. Designation as controlled-access highway. (1) A portion of any interstate highway, throughway or throughway intersection, or other commission-designated highway system or state highway may not be designated as a controlled-access highway unless the commission adopts a resolution so designating it. The resolution must be adopted by the majority vote of the members in attendance at any regular or special meeting. In it, the commission shall find and determine that it is necessary and desirable that:

(a) the owners or occupants of the abutting land or other persons have no easement of access or only a limited easement of access, light, air, or view;

(b) the rights of or easements to access, light, air, or view be acquired by the state so as to prevent that portion of highway from becoming unsafe for or impeded by unrestricted access of traffic from intersecting streets, alleys, public or private roads, or ways of passage.

(2) The resolution must contain a statement of the reasons for its adoption and set forth the location, distance, and termini of the portion of the highway designated as a controlled-access highway.

History: En. Sec. 10-103, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4303; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

60-5-104. Powers of highway authorities. (1) Those authorities of the state, counties, and municipalities authorized to participate in construction and maintenance of highways may plan, designate, establish, regulate, vacate, alter, improve, maintain, and provide controlled-access facilities for public use. Each authority shall by resolution make the findings and determinations provided for in 60-5-103 in order to designate a highway as a controlled-access facility.

(2) The highway authorities of the state, counties, incorporated cities, and towns, respectively or in cooperation each with the other, may acquire private or public property and property rights for controlled-access highways or controlled-access facilities and service roads. The property rights may include rights of access, air, view, and light. The property and property rights may be acquired by gift, devise, purchase, or condemnation, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, and chapter 4 of this title, for the acquisition of property or property rights in connection with highways, roads, and streets in their respective jurisdictions.

(3) Within incorporated cities and towns and upon county roads or secondary highways, the department of transportation may not control access without the consent of the appropriate governing body.

(4) Each authority may also exercise with relation to controlled-access facilities any current or future authority it has over highways, roads, or streets within its jurisdiction. Each authority may, within its jurisdiction, regulate, restrict, or prohibit the use of controlled-access facilities by any vehicles or traffic.

History: (1), (3), (4)En. Sec. 10-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 1973; Sec. 32-4305, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 8-218, Ch. 197, L. 1965; Sec. 32-4018, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4018, 32-4305; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

General powers of county relating to roads and bridges, 7-14-2101.
Municipal authority to establish, alter, and maintain trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4101.
General powers of Department, 60-2-201.

60-5-105. Design of controlled-access facility — entrance and exit restricted. (1) Each highway authority may so design any controlled-access facility and so regulate, restrict, or prohibit access as to best serve the traffic for which the facility is intended. In so doing, it may divide and separate any controlled-access facility into separate roadways by the construction of raised curbings, central dividing sections, or other physical separations or by designating the separate roadways by signs, markers, stripes, and other devices.

(2) No person shall have any right to enter upon, exit from, or cross any controlled-access facility except at designated points at which access may be permitted. Terms and conditions governing such access may be specified from time to time.

History: En. Sec. 10-106, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4306.

Cross-References

Traffic control devices, Title 61, ch. 8, part 2.
Restricted and controlled access, 61-8-331.
Restrictions on use of controlled-access roadway, 61-8-332.

60-5-106. Elimination of grade crossings. (1) Each highway authority may provide for elimination of intersections at grade of controlled-access highways or controlled-access facilities with existing commission-designated highway systems and state highways, county roads, and city or town streets. Elimination must be accomplished at the boundary of the controlled-access right-of-way.

(2) After the establishment of any controlled-access highway or facility, a private or public highway or street that is not a part of the highway or facility may not intersect it at grade, except as may be provided in the resolution designating it a controlled-access highway or facility. A street, road, highway, or other public or private way may not be opened into or connected with any controlled-access highway or facility without the prior consent and approval of the appropriate highway authority that adopted the controlled-access resolution.

(3) The commission may, whenever it determines that the public safety is not impaired, authorize the continued intersection at grade of lightly traveled farm entrances and minor public roads as ways of access to controlled-access highways in sparsely populated rural areas. The commission has sole jurisdiction to determine the existence and location of any intersection with interstate highways, throughways, and other commission-designated highway systems and state highways.

History: En. Sec. 10-107, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4307; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Establishment and change of street grade, Title 7, ch. 14, part 42.

60-5-107. Existing roads and streets as service roads. (1) In connection with the development of any controlled-access highway or facility, each highway authority may plan, designate, establish, use, regulate, alter, improve, maintain, and vacate local service roads and streets. Each authority may designate as local service roads and streets any existing road or street.

(2) Service roads and streets shall be of appropriate design. They shall be separated from the controlled-access highway or facility by means of all devices determined to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Each authority shall exercise jurisdiction over service roads and streets in the same manner as is authorized over controlled-access highways or facilities.

History: En. Sec. 10-108, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4308.

60-5-108. Maintenance of frontage roads. Frontage roads shall be maintained by the department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4308.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Maintenance responsibility, 60-2-203.

60-5-109. Marking of controlled-access highway or facility with signs. Any controlled-access highway or facility and portions thereof shall be physically marked by signs indicating to drivers of vehicles the points at which they enter and leave a controlled-access area.

History: En. Sec. 10-109, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4309.

Cross-References

Restricted and controlled access, 61-8-331.

60-5-110. Commercial enterprise or structure prohibited — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in 60-5-505 and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a commercial enterprise or structure may not be operated on the publicly owned or leased right-of-way of a controlled-access highway or controlled-access facility.

(2) The department may, under the terms and conditions that it considers appropriate, install or allow others to install electronic communication equipment or electronic informational kiosks on the right-of-way of any state highway, including a controlled-access facility. The department may charge a fee for the use of the equipment or kiosk. The fees must be deposited in the highway nonrestricted account provided for in 15-70-125 to be used for highway purposes.

(3) (a) The department may, under terms and conditions that it considers appropriate, contract with a blind vendor certified pursuant to Title 18, chapter 5, part 4, or issue an invitation

for bid subject to the preference to blind persons set forth in 18-5-502 for the installation of vending machines on the right-of-way of any state highway, including a controlled-access facility.

(b) A blind vendor installing a vending machine pursuant to this subsection (3) is subject to the applicable provisions of Title 18, chapter 5, part 4.

History: **En. Sec. 10-110, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4310; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 267, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Use of public right-of-way for utility lines and facilities, 69-4-101.

60-5-111. Violations — penalties. (1) On any controlled-access highway or facility, it is unlawful for any person to construct, operate, or maintain any road or private driveway connecting with the highway or facility without first obtaining permission in writing from the highway authority having jurisdiction and, with the exception of an interstate highway, from the local governing body.

(2) A person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon arrest and conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5 or more than $100 or by imprisonment in the city or county jail for not less than 5 days or more than 90 days, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 10-111, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4311(1), (1)(e), (2); amd. Sec. 1932, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

Parts 2 through 4 reserved

Part 5
Information Signs

Part Cross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Roadside historical signs, 15-65-121.
General provisions — Department of Transportation, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.
Signs identifying mountain ranges, 60-2-217.
Welcome and farewell signs, 60-2-218.
Commercial enterprise or structure prohibited on highway — exception, 60-5-110.
Outdoor advertising, Title 75, ch. 15, part 1.

60-5-501. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to provide for the installation of motorist information signs giving specific information of interest to the traveling public regarding motorist services that are conveniently accessible from the interstate and primary highways within the state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

60-5-502. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Business sign" means a separately attached sign mounted on a motorist information sign panel to show the brand, symbol, trademark, or name, or combination of these, for a motorist service available on a crossroad at or near an interchange or intersection.

(2) "Crossroad" means a marked route or other public road intersecting a freeway or divided highway for which access is provided at an interchange or intersection.

(3) "Department" means the department of transportation provided for in 2-15-2501.

(4) "Franchisee" means a person awarded a franchise as provided in 60-5-505.

(5) "Motorist information sign" means a rectangular sign panel located in the same manner as other official traffic signs, readable from the main traveled way, and that is a:

(a) specific information sign; or

(b) tourist-oriented directional sign.

(6) "Motorist service" means gas, food, lodging, camping, recreation, and other tourist services.

(7) "Specific information sign" means a motorist information sign that is located on the interstate highway system and that contains:

(a) the words "GAS", "FOOD", "LODGING", or "CAMPING";

(b) directional information; and

(c) one or more individual business signs.

(8) "Tourist-oriented directional sign" means a motorist information sign located on the primary highway system to provide:

(a) business identification; and

(b) directional information for businesses, services, and activities of interest to tourists.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.**

60-5-503. Rulemaking authority. The department may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of 60-5-501, 60-5-502, 60-5-504, 60-5-505, 60-5-509 through 60-5-514, and 60-5-519 through 60-5-522.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

60-5-504. Motorist information sign program — department. There is a motorist information sign program to be operated by a franchisee under the general supervision and control of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

60-5-505. Franchises. (1) The department may grant a franchise by public negotiation or bid to qualified persons to establish and operate the motorist information sign program authorized under 60-5-504.

(2) A franchisee shall furnish, install, maintain, and replace motorist information signs for the benefit of businesses that provide motorist services for the general public and may lease space on the signs to eligible businesses.

(3) A franchisee shall comply with the provisions of 60-5-501, 60-5-502, 60-5-511 through 60-5-514, and 60-5-519 through 60-5-522 and any other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Commercial enterprise or structure prohibited — exception, 60-5-110.

60-5-506 through 60-5-508 reserved.

60-5-509. Contract requirements. All contracts made between the department and a franchisee must provide for:

(1) a requirement that the franchisee obtain liability insurance in an amount sufficient to jointly insure the state and the franchisee against all liability for claims for damages occurring wholly or in part because of the franchisee; and

(2) the standards for the size, design, erection, and maintenance that were adopted under 60-5-503.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

60-5-510. Costs. The department shall authorize reasonable fees to cover all costs incurred under the motorist information sign program. Fees must be paid under agreements negotiated between a franchisee and an advertiser unless otherwise provided in the contract between the department and the franchisee.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

60-5-511. Specific information signs within right-of-way of interstate highway system. Specific information signs may be erected and maintained within the right-of-way of the interstate highway system to give the traveling public specific information as to motorist services available on a crossroad at or near an interchange.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 537, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Outdoor advertising prohibited — exceptions, 75-15-111.

60-5-512. Specific information signs — number of business signs — distances. (1) The number of specific information signs permitted is limited to one for each type of motorist service along an approach to an interchange or intersection.

(2) More than six business signs may not be displayed on a "GAS", "FOOD", "LODGING", or "CAMPING" specific information sign. Except as provided in subsection (3), a business may not be allowed more than one business sign on the same specific information sign.

(3) In areas where there are not more than four qualified businesses available for each of two or more types of motorist services, business signs for two types of services may be displayed by a business on the same specific information sign. More than four business signs for each type of service may not be displayed in combination on a specific information sign.

(4) To qualify for business identification on a specific information sign, a motorist service facility shall meet the eligibility criteria established in 60-5-514 and may not be located more than 3 miles from the interstate highway. However, if eligible services are not located within the 3-mile limit, the distance limits may be increased in 3-mile increments until either an eligible service or 15 miles is reached.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1997.

60-5-513. Sign composition — spacing — conformity with laws. (1) A specific information sign panel must have a blue background with a white reflectorized border. The panels may be illuminated subject to regulation by the department.

(2) A business sign must have a blue background with a white legend unless other requirements are established by the department. Nationally, regionally, or locally known commercial symbols, brands, or trademarks for service stations, restaurants, campgrounds, and motels must be used when applicable. The symbol, brand, or trademark used on the business sign must be reproduced in the colors and general shape consistent with customary use. Messages, symbols, brands, or trademarks that interfere with or resemble any official warning or regulatory traffic sign, signal, or device are prohibited.

(3) Specific information signs are permitted only at locations where there is adequate distance between interchanges in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as amended.

(4) The spacing between two specific information sign panels and between specific information sign panels and official traffic control signs must be in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. If there is insufficient space for both official traffic control signs and specific information signs, the official traffic control signs must be installed.

(5) The erection and maintenance of specific information signs must conform to national standards promulgated by the secretary of the U.S. department of transportation pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 131 and 23 U.S.C. 315 and rules adopted by the department under 60-5-503.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

60-5-514. Business eligibility — criteria — restrictions. (1) To be eligible for placement of a business sign on a specific information sign panel, a business establishment shall meet standards for "GAS", "FOOD", "LODGING", and "CAMPING" services in rules adopted by the department pursuant to guidelines in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as amended.

(2) (a) Each business identified on a specific information sign shall provide assurance of its conformity with all applicable laws concerning the provision of public accommodations without regard to race, color, sex, as defined in 1-1-201, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

(b) If such a business violates any of these laws, it loses eligibility for business identification on a specific information sign.

(3) No business that owns any outdoor advertising structure in violation of the provisions of Title 75, chapter 15, part 1, may be eligible for business identification on a specific information sign for 1 year after the illegal outdoor advertising structure is removed unless the owner voluntarily removes it within 45 days of receiving notification under 75-15-131.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 38, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

60-5-515 through 60-5-518 reserved.

60-5-519. Tourist-oriented directional signs within right-of-way of primary highway system. (1) Tourist-oriented directional signs may be erected and maintained within the right-of-way of the primary highway system to provide information to the traveling public concerning motorist services accessible from the primary highway system by way of an intersecting highway.

(2) Except as provided by rule, a tourist-oriented directional sign may not be erected if the place of business is readily visible from the main-traveled roadway.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Outdoor advertising prohibited — exceptions, 75-15-111.

60-5-520. Tourist-oriented directional signs — number of business signs — distances. (1) The number of tourist-oriented directional signs is limited to three signs on an approach to an intersection.

(2) No more than four business signs may be installed on a tourist-oriented directional sign.

(3) To qualify for business identification on a tourist-oriented sign, a business shall meet the eligibility criteria established in 60-5-522 and may not be located more than 5 miles from the primary highway, except as otherwise permitted by the department if no eligible business is located within the 5-mile limit.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

60-5-521. Sign composition — design — conformity with standards and rules. (1) A tourist-oriented directional sign must be rectangular in shape and must have a white legend and border on a blue background.

(2) A tourist-oriented directional sign may contain standard general service symbols to indicate a class of business, service, or activity.

(3) Business signs for specific businesses, services, and activities may be installed on a tourist-oriented directional sign. Nationally, regionally, or locally known commercial symbols, brands, or trademarks for service stations, restaurants, campgrounds, and motels must be used when applicable. Such commercial symbols, brands, and trademarks must be reduced to an appropriate size. No business sign may resemble any official warning or regulatory-traffic sign, signal, or device.

(4) A tourist-oriented directional sign may contain no more than two lines of legend, including no more than one business sign, a separate directional arrow, and the distance to the specific business, service, or activity.

(5) The content of the legend must be limited to the identification of the business, service, or activity. The legend may not include promotional advertising.

(6) The legends, arrows, and business signs displayed on a tourist-oriented directional sign may be reflectorized.

(7) The erection and maintenance of tourist-oriented directional signs must conform to national standards promulgated by the U.S. secretary of transportation pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 131 and 23 U.S.C. 315 and rules adopted by the department under 60-5-503.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

60-5-522. Business eligibility — criteria — restrictions. (1) To be eligible for business identification on a tourist-oriented directional sign, a business establishment shall meet the following standards for a business, service, or activity:

(a) Gas, food, lodging, and camping services must:

(i) be licensed and approved by the state and local agencies regulating the particular type of business;

(ii) provide an acceptable level of service to the public;

(iii) be in continuous operation at least 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, including Saturday or Sunday; and

(iv) have a telephone and restroom facilities available for public use.

(b) Recreation services must:

(i) be licensed and approved by state and local agencies as required by law;

(ii) provide to families and the public activities of interest in which people participate for purposes of physical exercise, collective amusement, or enjoyment of nature. Such activities may include hiking, golfing, skiing, boating, swimming, picnicking, fishing, and horseback riding.

(c) Tourist services must:

(i) be licensed as required by law;

(ii) be open to the public at least 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, including Saturday or Sunday, during the normal tourist season; and

(iii) provide a natural, recreational, historical, cultural, educational, or entertainment activity or a unique or unusual commercial or nonprofit activity, from which the major portion of income or visitors is derived during normal business seasons from motorists not residing in the immediate area of the activity.

(2) Priority under subsection (1)(a) must be given to businesses that are in continuous operation for 12 months a year.

(3) (a) Each business identified on a tourist-oriented directional sign shall provide assurance of its conformity with all applicable laws concerning the provision of public accommodations without regard to race, color, sex, as defined in 1-1-201, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

(b) If a business violates any of these laws, it loses eligibility for business identification on a tourist-oriented directional sign.

(4) A business that owns any outdoor advertising structure in violation of the provisions of Title 75, chapter 15, part 1, may not be eligible for business identification on a tourist-oriented directional sign for 1 year after the illegal outdoor advertising structure is removed unless the owner voluntarily removes it within 45 days of receiving notification under 75-15-131.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 685, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 39, Ch. 685, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

60-5-523 through 60-5-525 reserved.

60-5-526. Restrictions. The department may take no action under this part that may result in the loss to the state of any federal highway construction funds.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

60-5-527. Federal requirements — conflict and accord. If the secretary of the U.S. department of transportation finds any part of this part to be in conflict with federal requirements that are prescribed as a condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this part is invalid only to the extent of the conflict and such finding may not affect the operation of the remainder of this part in its valid applications.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 537, L. 1989.

60-5-528 and 60-5-529 reserved.

60-5-530. Antilittering signs. (1) (a) There is an antilittering sign special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(b) There must be paid into the account money received from donations for the making and installation of antilittering signs.

(c) Money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of transportation and may only be used for the design, making, installation, and maintenance of antilittering signs.

(2) The department shall:

(a) design a highway sign conveying in words or images an antilittering message;

(b) make known to the public the cost of making and installing antilittering signs, the method for donating money for antilittering signs, and a method for designating preferred locations for sign installation;

(c) make and install antilittering signs at appropriate locations on the public highways of the state. Only donated money may be used for this subsection (2)(c).

(3) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 6
HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENTS

Part 1 — Removal of Encroachments by State Authorities

60-6-101. Highway encroachments — permit — immediate removal.
60-6-102. Notice of encroachment.
60-6-103. Encroachment not permanently affixed — time limit for removal — penalty.
60-6-104. Unpermitted encroachment — department action.
60-6-105. Encroachment affixed to the land — time limit for removal — penalty — immediate removal.
60-6-106. Limitation of authority within incorporated municipalities — exclusion outside incorporated municipalities — inclusion due to lack of local ordinances.

Chapter Cross-References

Power to construct works across roads and other obstacles, 7-13-2219.
Right-of-way across state lands, 7-13-2220.
Powers of rural cooperative utilities, 35-18-106.
Roadblocks, Title 46, ch. 5, part 5.
Removal of unauthorized signs, 61-8-706.
Use of public right-of-way for utility lines and facilities, 69-4-101.
Right to construct pipelines across highway, 69-13-103, 69-13-104.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.
Outdoor Advertising Act, Title 75, ch. 15, part 1.
Reduction of slash and debris along right-of-way, 76-13-407.

Part 1
Removal of Encroachments by State Authorities

60-6-101. Highway encroachments — permit — immediate removal. (1) If a commission-designated highway system or state highway is encroached on by an obstruction, device, or object placed within the right-of-way limits, including a fence, building, structure, sign, marker, mailbox, newspaper delivery box, or driveway approach, or is obstructed by physical occupancy of the right-of-way by a person, persons, or group of persons, the department of transportation:

(a) for a mailbox or newspaper delivery box, may issue an encroachment permit pursuant to subsection (3); and

(b) (i) for all other encroachments, may issue an encroachment permit pursuant to subsection (2); or

(ii) may give notice in writing to the person erecting or maintaining the encroachment requiring that it be removed.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 60-6-106, a highway right-of-way encroachment may not be constructed, maintained, or occupied on a commission-designated highway system or state highway without a permit. An application for a permit must be made to the department on a form provided by the department. The department shall require reasonable information to be furnished, including site plan drawings or specifications for an object encroachment.

(b) The department shall adopt rules pertaining to the issuance of encroachment permits and the removal of encroachments.

(3) (a) The department shall adopt rules pertaining to the accommodation of mailboxes and newspaper delivery boxes on public highway rights-of-way. The rules must ensure that the location and construction of mailboxes and newspaper delivery boxes conform to the rules and regulations of the U.S. postal service.

(b) The department may issue an encroachment permit for a completed permit application for a mailbox or newspaper delivery box.

(c) The department may not charge a fee for an encroachment permit for a mailbox or newspaper delivery box.

(4) If an encroachment obstructs or prevents the use of the highway for vehicles, the department may immediately remove the encroachment without the notice required by 60-6-102.

(5) Utility facilities lawfully occupying a highway right-of-way on October 1, 2019, or under an occupancy or encroachment permit issued by the department pursuant to 60-4-402(1)(c) are not encroachments within the meaning of this part.

History: **En. 32-4411 by Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4411; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 303, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 581, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 581, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Notice — actual and constructive, 1-1-217.

Display of unauthorized signs, signals, or markings, 61-8-210.

60-6-102. Notice of encroachment. (1) Notice to remove an unpermitted encroachment, specifying the width of the highway right-of-way and the place and extent of the encroachment, must be given to the person erecting or maintaining the encroachment.

(2) Notice must be given in the following manner:

(a) in writing by certified mail sent to the person's business or personal address or by personal service; or

(b) if the person's address cannot be found, by posting it on the encroachment.

History: **En. 32-4412 by Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4412; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 303, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Civil procedure — notice defined, 25-3-101.

Right-of-way defined, 60-1-103.

60-6-103. Encroachment not permanently affixed — time limit for removal — penalty. (1) Except as provided in 60-6-106, if an unpermitted encroachment is not permanently affixed to the land and is not removed from the right-of-way by the person who erected or maintains the encroachment within 2 days after receipt of the notice provided for in 60-6-102, the department may begin action under 60-6-104 for its removal at the expense of the person who causes, owns, or controls it. The department may recover the expense of removal and costs in an action brought for that purpose.

(2) If an encroachment presents an imminent danger to the public, the department may immediately remove the encroachment without the notice required by 60-6-102.

History: **En. 32-4413 by Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4413; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 303, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 581, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 581, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

60-6-104. Unpermitted encroachment — department action. Except as provided in 60-6-106, if an encroachment permit provided for in 60-6-101 has not been granted and the person erecting or maintaining the encroachment fails to remove it after receiving notice pursuant to 60-6-102, the department shall commence appropriate legal action to have the encroachment removed. If the department recovers a judgment, it shall have its costs. If the encroachment is not removed within 5 days after entry of judgment, the department may remove it at the expense of the person who causes, owns, or controls it.

History: **En. 32-4414 by Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4414(1); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 303, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Civil procedure — costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

60-6-105. Encroachment affixed to the land — time limit for removal — penalty — immediate removal. (1) If an unpermitted encroachment affixed to the land is not removed by the person who erected or maintains the encroachment within 5 days after receiving notice as provided for in 60-6-102, the department may begin action under 60-6-104 to remove it at the expense of the person who causes, owns, or controls it. The department may recover the expense of removal and costs in an action brought for that purpose.

(2) If an encroachment presents an imminent danger to the public, the department may immediately remove the encroachment without the notice required by 60-6-102.

History: **En. 32-4414 by Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4414(2); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 303, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Civil procedure — costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

60-6-106. Limitation of authority within incorporated municipalities — exclusion outside incorporated municipalities — inclusion due to lack of local ordinances. (1) (a) Municipalities incorporated under Title 7, chapter 2, part 41, have the authority to enact ordinances in accordance with state and federal laws governing the placement of impermanent encroachments on sidewalks of a commission-designated highway system or state highway right-of-way without the necessity of permitting by the department of transportation for individual encroachments as described in 60-6-101.

(b) This provision is limited to sidewalks as defined in 61-8-102.

(2) (a) This provision specifically excludes all commission-designated highway systems and state highway rights-of-way outside of incorporated municipality boundaries.

(b) A sidewalk encroachment requiring or resulting in a permanent attachment to or a modification of a commission-designated highway system or state highway right-of-way must abide by the requirements of 60-6-101 through 60-6-105.

(3) (a) An incorporated municipality that has not enacted an ordinance regulating the placement of an impermanent encroachment on a sidewalk shall default to the permitting process as described in 60-6-101 until it enacts a regulating ordinance.

(b) After enacting a regulating ordinance:

(i) the municipality shall indemnify the state, including costs and fees, for all claims for damages caused by the municipality's enactment of an ordinance, approval of the impermanent encroachment on a sidewalk, and placement of the impermanent encroachment on a sidewalk; and

(ii) 60-6-101 through 60-6-105 do not apply to the impermanent encroachment on a sidewalk except as provided by this section.

(4) The department of transportation shall communicate identified violations of state or federal law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq., as amended, to the incorporated municipalities for enforcement within their boundaries. This communication must include references to the state or federal law that was violated. If an incorporated municipality has not acted to address the violation within 7 days, the department of transportation is authorized to proceed with removal of the violation as described in 60-6-101 through 60-6-105.

(5) "Impermanent encroachment" means:

(a) an object that is not permanently affixed to the sidewalk of a commission-designated highway system or state highway right-of-way or that does not require the modification of the sidewalk of a commission-designated highway system or state highway right-of-way; or

(b) an occupied encroachment above grade level.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 7
LIVESTOCK ON HIGHWAYS

Part 1 — Fencing of Open Range

60-7-101. Purpose.
60-7-102. Definitions.
60-7-103. Department to fence right-of-way through open range — exception.

Part 2 — Grazing of Livestock on Highways

60-7-201. Grazing livestock on highway unlawful.
60-7-202. Exclusions.
60-7-203. Penalty.
60-7-204. Flag escorts — prohibitions against nighttime herding on public highways.
60-7-205. Violations.

Chapter Cross-References

Containment of livestock, Title 81, ch. 4.

Part 1
Fencing of Open Range

Part Cross-References
Open range defined, 81-4-203.

60-7-101. Purpose. It is the purpose of 60-7-101 through 60-7-103 to balance the tradition of the open range and the economic and geographic problems of raising livestock with the need for safer highways and the policy of taking all feasible measures to reduce the high incidence of traffic accidents and fatalities on Montana highways.

History: En. 32-2425.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2425.1.

60-7-102. Definitions. As used in 60-2-208 and 60-7-101 through 60-7-103, the following definitions apply:

(1) A "high-hazard area" is a segment of the primary or secondary highway system passing through open range where livestock move on or across the highway often enough, in enough numbers, and with enough ease of access that the animals create a significant traffic safety hazard. Evidence bearing on whether animals on the highway pose a significant hazard includes, without limitation, past accident records, the opinions of persons qualified by experience to evaluate the relative safety of road conditions, and the terrain around the road.

(2) "Livestock" means cattle, sheep, swine, horses, mules, and goats.

(3) A "low-hazard area" is a segment of the primary or secondary highway system passing through open range that is not a high-hazard area.

(4) "Open range" means those areas of the state where livestock are raised and maintained in sufficient numbers to constitute a significant part of the local or county economy and where livestock graze and move about generally unrestrained by fences.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2426(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2001.

60-7-103. Department to fence right-of-way through open range — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department shall fence the right-of-way of any part of a primary or secondary highway or a county road or bridge that is constructed or reconstructed after July 1, 1969, through open range where livestock present a hazard to the safety of the motorist. When a fence is constructed, adequate stock gates or stock passes, as necessary, must be provided to make land on either side of the highway usable for livestock purposes.

(2) The department shall erect a right-of-way fence in the high-hazard areas where fencing is warranted as promptly as possible, and the cost of the fence construction is an expenditure for the enforcement of federal-aid highway safety programs. Even if a right-of-way fence is determined to be unwarranted pursuant to subsection (3), gates, stock underpasses, water facilities, and cattle guards may be installed where necessary to enhance safety and to make the land on either side of the highway usable for livestock purposes or where a public right-of-way intersects the state highway.

(3) The department is not required to fence the right-of-way of a secondary highway through open range that passes through a county park, provided that:

(a) the department and the board of county commissioners:

(i) agree that the criteria listed in this subsection (3) have been adequately met; and

(ii) cooperate in developing an accident mitigation plan for the portion of the highway that will remain unfenced. The plan may include the speed limit established as provided in 61-8-309 or 61-8-310, how the criteria listed in this subsection (3) have been met, how the plan will be implemented, and any other issues related to minimizing accidents involving livestock and motor vehicles where a fence has not been erected.

(b) livestock grazing does not occur from Memorial Day to Labor Day;

(c) the speed limit established as provided in 61-8-309 or 61-8-310 is clearly posted and enforceable;

(d) warning signs indicating that livestock may be on the road are posted at regular intervals along the road and maintained during the months that livestock grazing occurs;

(e) livestock management practices, such as locating water and administering dietary supplements away from the road and developing grazing and herding plans that minimize the amount of time that livestock are on or near the road, are employed; and

(f) the unfenced portion of the road does not exceed 20 miles in length.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2426, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 32-2429 by Sec. 5, Ch. 255, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2429, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2426(1), 32-2429; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 204, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right-of-way defined, 60-1-103.
Legal fence defined, 81-4-101.
Construction of auto pass not to deprive legal fence of character, 81-4-102.

Part 2
Grazing of Livestock on Highways

Part Cross-References

Limits on liability of livestock owner or property owner in accidents involving motor vehicles and livestock, 27-1-724.
Duty to build and maintain fences — herd districts, 81-4-311.

60-7-201. Grazing livestock on highway unlawful. A person who owns or possesses livestock may not permit the livestock to graze, remain upon, or occupy a part of the right-of-way of:

(1) a state highway running through cultivated areas or a part of the fenced right-of-way of a state highway if in either case the highway has been designated by agreement between the transportation commission and the secretary of transportation as a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways; or

(2) a state highway designated by agreement between the transportation commission and the secretary of transportation as a part of the federal-aid primary system, except as provided in 60-7-202.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1961; Sec. 32-1018, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-21-176 by Sec. 7, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-176; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Federal-aid highway systems defined, 60-1-103.

60-7-202. Exclusions. Section 60-7-201 does not apply to the following:

(1) livestock on state highways under the charge of one or more herders;

(2) the parts of fenced highways adjacent to open range where a highway device has not been installed to exclude range livestock;

(3) the parts of a state highway or a part of the federal-aid primary system that the department of transportation designates as being impracticable to exclude livestock. These portions of the highway must be marked by proper signs in accordance with the department's manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices.

(4) the parts of the secondary highway system that pass through county parks and that meet the criteria established in 60-7-103(3).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 186, L. 1961; Sec. 32-1019, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-21-177 by Sec. 8, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-177; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 23, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 204, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Traffic control devices, Title 61, ch. 8, part 2.

60-7-203. Penalty. A person who violates 60-7-201 is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of not less than $5 or more than $100 for each offense. In a civil action for damages caused by collision between a motor vehicle and a domestic animal or animals on a highway brought by the owner, driver, or occupant of a motor vehicle or by their personal representatives or assigns or by the owner of livestock, there is no presumption or inference that the collision was due to negligence on the part of the owner or the person in possession of the livestock or the driver or owner of the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 186, L. 1961; Sec. 32-1020, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-21-178 by Sec. 9, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-178.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Uniform Accident Reporting Act, Title 61, ch. 7, part 1.

60-7-204. Flag escorts — prohibitions against nighttime herding on public highways. A person who owns, controls, or possesses livestock may not herd or drive more than 10 livestock on an interstate or state primary highway unless the livestock is preceded and followed by flag person escorts for the purpose of warning other highway users. Livestock may not be herded or driven on an interstate or state primary highway during nighttime, as that term is defined in 1-1-301, except in a case of emergency. In the case of an emergency during the nighttime, the flag person escorts shall use adequate warning lights, such as but not limited to portable lamps, lanterns, or rotating beacons. This section does not apply during daytime at posted livestock crossings on highways.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1967; Sec. 32-1021, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-21-179 by Sec. 10, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-179; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1933, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

60-7-205. Violations. A person who violates 60-7-204 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 90, L. 1967; Sec. 32-1022, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-21-180 by Sec. 11, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-180.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
When no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

CHAPTERS 8 THROUGH 10
RESERVED

CHAPTER 11
RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Part 1 — General Provisions

60-11-101. Rail planning.
60-11-102 through 60-11-109 reserved.
60-11-110. Abandonment defined.
60-11-111. Identification and acquisition of railroad rights-of-way — identification of railroad lines for rehabilitation.
60-11-112. Definitions.
60-11-113. Short title.
60-11-114. Purpose.
60-11-115. Revolving loan account — statutory appropriation — rulemaking.
60-11-116. Funding for account.
60-11-117. Definitions.
60-11-118. Revenue bond debt service account — deposit of bond proceeds.
60-11-119. Authority to issue revenue bonds.
60-11-120. Railroad and intermodal transportation facility loans — authorization — eligibility.
60-11-121. Legislative findings.
60-11-122. Repealed.
60-11-123. Disposition of revenue from state-owned railroads — use of money.

Part 2 — Rail Passenger Service

60-11-201. Agreements for rail passenger service application.
60-11-202. Southern amtrak route account.

Parts 3 through 10 reserved

Part 11 — Railroad Rehabilitation Revenue Bonds (Repealed)

Part 12 — Rolling Stock Revenue Bonds (Repealed)

Chapter Cross-References
Railroads, Title 69, ch. 14.
Coal impacts — newly constructed railroad serving coal mine, 90-6-207.

Part 1
General Provisions

60-11-101. Rail planning. The department of transportation may administer rail planning activities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.

60-11-102 through 60-11-109 reserved.

60-11-110. Abandonment defined. For purposes of this part, "abandonment" means the relinquishment of property, both real and personal, and the discontinuance of railroad services. Abandonment may be accomplished by voluntary act or by formal procedure.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 1987.**

Cross-References

Privilege tax on gainful use of tax-exempt property — exception for state-acquired railroad property, 15-24-1203.

Sale or transfer of railroad line, Title 69, ch. 14, part 11.

60-11-111. Identification and acquisition of railroad rights-of-way — identification of railroad lines for rehabilitation. (1) Identification of those railroad lines proposed for abandonment in the state of Montana that may have potential for local transportation service or future use as transportation corridors is necessary to determine the feasibility of acquisition by the state and to allow the state to negotiate for acquisition of those railroad lines or easements in the lines.

(2) Identification of those railroad branch lines in the state that may have potential for local rail freight transportation service is necessary to determine the feasibility of providing loans or grants to the owner or operator of the railroad line as provided in 60-11-120.

(3) The department of transportation:

(a) shall identify railroad rights-of-way in this state that may be abandoned and research the feasibility of acquisition by the state of Montana of those rights-of-way that may be abandoned;

(b) shall identify, under the state rail planning program, railroad branch lines that should be preserved for continued operation;

(c) may negotiate for and acquire easements in the rights-of-way or the railroad rights-of-way and attendant facilities identified pursuant to subsection (3)(a) and:

(i) hold all acquired lands in trust for transportation purposes; and

(ii) upon creation of an appropriate local authority, other than an agency of state government, shall transfer to the local authority all attendant facilities and all rights and responsibility to operate and maintain transportation services over the lands acquired in subsection (3)(c);

(d) shall cooperate with and assist persons representing recreational, transportation, and utility interests and other interested persons, including adjacent landowners, in acquiring ownership or easement of abandoned railbeds; and

(e) shall establish procedures, including the use of federal funds received for rail freight assistance programs under former 49 U.S.C. 1654, for providing loans and grants under 60-11-120.

(4) Abandoned rights-of-way acquired and held in trust pursuant to subsection (3)(c)(i) must be administered by the department of natural resources and conservation, as prescribed in Title 77, until the land is needed for transportation purposes.

History: **En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 653, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 564, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Department of Commerce established, 2-15-1801.

60-11-112. Definitions. As used in 60-11-111, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Railbed" means the fee or lessor interest in the land 8.5 feet to either side of the centerline of the railroad track.

(2) "Recreational interest" means a local government or a not-for-profit corporation that has as its stated purpose the development, use, or maintenance of public recreational trails.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1991.**

60-11-113. Short title. Sections 60-11-113 through 60-11-116 may be cited as the "Montana Essential Freight Rail Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 602, L. 2005.**

60-11-114. Purpose. (1) Montana's railroad branch lines provide critical transportation to Montana businesses and communities. These lines are especially important to Montana's agricultural and wood products industries that rely on railroads to transport Montana products to national and international markets. The branch lines are also critical to efforts to increase or expand businesses that process Montana commodities into more valuable products.

(2) A state rail funding program will provide Montana with an important tool to help preserve and enhance Montana's branch lines.

(3) The purpose of sections 60-11-113 through 60-11-116 is to provide low-interest loans to railroads, cities, counties, companies, or regional rail authorities for the purposes provided in 60-11-120 to preserve or enhance cost-effective rail service to Montana communities and businesses.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-115. Revolving loan account — statutory appropriation — rulemaking. (1) There is a revolving loan account to be administered by the department. Any interest or income that is earned by the account and loan repayments must be deposited into the revolving loan account unless revenue bonds are issued to fund a loan, in which case the loan repayments must be deposited in the debt service account. The department may request the board of investments to issue revenue bonds, as provided in 60-11-117 through 60-11-119, for the purpose of providing funds for a loan.

(2) The department may make loans from the account pursuant to 60-11-120.

(3) Funds in the account that are deposited pursuant to former 49 U.S.C. 1654 must continue to be managed as local rail freight assistance program funds. Any additional federal funds received for local rail freight assistance programs or for railroad projects must be deposited in the account.

(4) There is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department up to $2 million annually for the purposes of making loans pursuant to 60-11-120.

(5) Loans may not be made if the loan would cause the balance in the account to be less than $500,000.

(6) The department may adopt rules to implement 60-11-113 through 60-11-116.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-116. Funding for account. Federal funds received for local freight assistance programs under former 49 U.S.C. 1654 in an amount up to $1.1 million must be deposited in the account established in 60-11-115.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-117. Definitions. As used in 60-11-117 through 60-11-119, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of investments established in 2-15-1808.

(2) "Bonds" means bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued pursuant to 60-11-117 through 60-11-119 as essential freight rail revenue bonds.

(3) "Cost", as applied to any project, means any cost of any part of the project pursuant to 60-11-120.

(4) "Projects" means the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of rail lines.

(5) "Revenue" means the revenue from the operation of a rail line loan repayments and any delinquency charges on loan repayments.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-118. Revenue bond debt service account — deposit of bond proceeds. (1) There is in the debt service fund an essential freight rail revenue bond debt service account. The state treasurer shall deposit revenue as may be pledged to the payment of particular bonds to the credit of the essential freight rail revenue bond debt service account as required by resolution or indenture.

(2) All proceeds of an issue of bonds must be deposited in a separate account in the state special revenue fund, except that any premiums and accrued interest received may be deposited in a separate account in the debt service fund established for that bond issue by resolution or indenture. No more than the principal and interest on the bonds due in any year may be retained

in the essential freight rail revenue bond debt service account for the payment of bonds. The remainder of pledged revenue is available for authorized purposes of the department. Money deposited in the separate accounts in the state special revenue fund until spent for project purposes may be pledged and appropriated for the payment of bonds, which are a first lien and prior charge upon the funds, and the funds may be used for payment of bonds to the extent that revenue deposited in the essential freight rail revenue bond debt service account are not sufficient for those purposes.

(3) Interest and investment earnings on the separate accounts in subsections (1) and (2) must be retained in the separate accounts referred to in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-119. Authority to issue revenue bonds. The board may issue and sell essential freight rail revenue bonds to make loans to finance the cost of projects, to pay the costs of issuing the bonds, and to provide for reserves, upon recommendation of the department. The bonds must be issued under Title 17, chapter 5, part 15.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-120. Railroad and intermodal transportation facility loans — authorization — eligibility. (1) Money appropriated by the legislature for the purposes provided for in this section and pursuant to 60-11-115 must be used by the department, after deducting the necessary costs and expenses for administering this section, to provide loans for:

(a) the preservation and continued operation of railroad branch lines identified in 60-11-111; and

(b) the development, improvement, construction, purchase, maintenance, or rehabilitation of:

(i) intermodal transportation facilities except as prohibited by federal law;

(ii) branch lines or short lines;

(iii) sidings;

(iv) light density railroad lines; and

(v) rolling stock, including rail cars.

(2) An owner or operator of a railroad identified in 60-11-111(2) is eligible for a loan under this section if the owner or operator:

(a) undertakes to repair, improve, or replace rail facilities to allow the continued operation of the railroad for local rail transportation service; and

(b) derives revenue from the continued operation of the railroad.

(3) A port authority created under Title 7, chapter 14, part 11, is eligible for a loan under this section if:

(a) the port authority is included in the state transportation planning process as described in 23 U.S.C. 135; and

(b) the purpose for which a loan is sought is integrally related to the railroad transportation system of the state.

(4) Applications for a loan must include:

(a) a financial statement;

(b) evidence of matching funds required pursuant to subsection (5);

(c) an operating or business plan that demonstrates the applicant's ability to repay the funds; and

(d) upon request of the department, an independent feasibility study.

(5) Pursuant to requirements of former 49 U.S.C. 1654, which is providing a portion of the funds under 60-11-115, rehabilitation projects must be matched with 30% in other funds and new construction projects must be matched with 50% in other funds. The transportation commission, provided for in 2-15-2502, shall establish matching fund requirements for other project categories.

(6) The transportation commission is responsible for determining funding recipients. Recipients must be determined using the guidelines provided in 60-2-110.

(7) The department shall administer the Montana Essential Freight Rail Act with input from the department of commerce, the department of agriculture, and the governor's office.

(8) Funding recipients shall pay the standard prevailing wage on any construction projects or subcontracted construction projects conducted with funds received under this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 541, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 496, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 602, L. 2005.

60-11-121. Legislative findings. (1) The legislature finds that it is in the interests of the state of Montana to preserve and encourage, whenever possible, Montana's railroad transportation infrastructure, especially:

(a) those railroads classified as Class III carriers under 49 CFR, chapter X, that operate mainly within the state; and

(b) those railroads within the state that are eligible for rail freight assistance programs under 49 U.S.C. 1654.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) the railroad transportation infrastructure of the state is enhanced by the development and improvement of intermodal transportation facilities by port authorities created under Title 7, chapter 14, part 11; and

(b) abandonment of railroad branch lines and the increased demands for shipping have a negative impact on the highways of the state.

(3) The legislature further finds that the preservation of those railroads described in subsection (1)(b) and the development and improvement of intermodal transportation facilities are necessary to enhance access to markets, to mitigate rural isolation and long-term negative impacts on the highways of the state, and to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's transportation system.

(4) The legislature declares that loans and grants made available under 60-11-120 to railroads and to port authorities are in the interest of the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 541, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 244, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

60-11-122. Repealed. Sec. 66, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 541, L. 1993.

60-11-123. Disposition of revenue from state-owned railroads — use of money. (1) Unless otherwise required by law, revenue from the lease or sale of assets of or revenue paid to the state of Montana by an operator of a railroad owned by the state of Montana must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) The department of transportation is authorized to administer, as provided in 60-11-120 through 60-11-123, funding available to provide for improvement of railroad tracks and associated facilities of any state-owned railroad in Montana and to provide loans and grants to railroad lines and intermodal transportation facilities as provided in 60-11-120.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 541, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

Part 2
Rail Passenger Service

60-11-201. Agreements for rail passenger service application. The governor or the governor's authorized representative may negotiate with the proper authority representing any other state to establish an agreement to enable Montana, in concert with other states, to submit an application to the rail passenger corporation for institution of rail passenger service under the provisions of the Rail Passenger Service Act, 45 U.S.C. 563(b), or any interstate or federal proposal for the purpose of maintaining or augmenting rail passenger service in the state. The governor may not participate in the submission of an application until the base agreement and any application have been approved by the legislature. However, the governor or the governor's authorized representative may enter into agreements to expand Amtrak rail passenger service under 45 U.S.C. 563(b), as that statute reads on July 1, 1985, subject to appropriation by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 306, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1934, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.

Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.

60-11-202. Southern amtrak route account. (1) There is a southern amtrak route account in the state special revenue fund. Money deposited in the account must be used for an engineering and operating study by amtrak of a rail passenger route across southern Montana. The department of transportation shall administer the account.

(2) The department may accept gifts, grants, or donations for the engineering and operating study.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 2001.

Parts 3 through 10 reserved

Part 11
Railroad Rehabilitation Revenue Bonds
(Repealed)

60-11-1101. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 564, L. 1979.

60-11-1102. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 486, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

60-11-1103. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 83, L. 1989.

60-11-1104. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1105. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1106. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1107. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 486, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 298, L. 1983.

60-11-1108. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 564, L. 1979.

60-11-1109. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 564, L. 1979.

60-11-1110. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

60-11-1111. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 564, L. 1979.

60-11-1112. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 564, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1113. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 564, L. 1979.

Part 12
Rolling Stock Revenue Bonds
(Repealed)

60-11-1201. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 565, L. 1979.

60-11-1202. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 486, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

60-11-1203. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 83, L. 1989.

60-11-1204. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1205. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1206. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1207. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 486, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 281, L. 1983.

60-11-1208. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 565, L. 1979.

60-11-1209. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 565, L. 1979.

60-11-1210. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

60-11-1211. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1212. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 565, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 486, L. 1981.

60-11-1213. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 307, L. 2001.
History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 565, L. 1979.

CHAPTERS 12 THROUGH 20 RESERVED

CHAPTER 21
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Part 1 — General Provisions

60-21-101. Department of transportation authorized to represent the state on public transportation issues.

Part 1
General Provisions

60-21-101. Department of transportation authorized to represent the state on public transportation issues. The department of transportation may represent the state of Montana on any issue relating to any mode of public transportation in any judicial or administrative forum of this state, any other state, or the United States.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Local government — transportation, Title 7, ch. 14.
Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.
Motor vehicles — size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.
Regulation of motor carriers, Title 69, ch. 12.
Railroads — role of Public Service Commission, Title 69, ch. 14, part 1.

TITLE 61

MOTOR VEHICLES

Ch.
1. Definitions.
2. Highway Safety.
3. Certificates of Title, Registration, and Taxation of Motor Vehicles.
4. Sales and Distribution of Motor Vehicles.
5. Driver's Licenses.
6. Responsibility of Vehicle Users and Owners.
7. Accidents and Accident Reports.
8. Traffic Regulation.
9. Vehicle Equipment.
10. Size — Weight — Load.
11. Records and Reports of Convictions.
12. Miscellaneous Provisions.
13. Seatbelts.
14. Rulemaking.

Title Cross-References

Highways, Title 60.

CHAPTER 1

DEFINITIONS

Part 1 — Vehicles

61-1-101. Definitions.
61-1-102. Repealed.
61-1-103. Repealed.
61-1-104. Repealed.
61-1-105. Repealed.
61-1-106. Repealed.
61-1-107. Repealed.
61-1-108. Repealed.
61-1-109. Repealed.
61-1-110. Repealed.
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61-1-137. Repealed.
61-1-138. Repealed.
61-1-139. Repealed.
61-1-140. Repealed.
61-1-141. Repealed.
61-1-142. Repealed.

Part 2 — Roads (Repealed)

Part 3 — Persons — Agencies (Repealed)

Part 4 — Traffic Control (Repealed)

Part 5 — Miscellaneous (Repealed)

Part 6 — Records (Repealed)

Part 1
Vehicles

61-1-101. Definitions. As used in this title, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Authorized agent" means a person who has executed a written agreement with the department and is specifically authorized by the department to electronically access and update the department's motor vehicle titling, registration, or driver records, using an approved automated interface, for specific functions or purposes on behalf of a third party.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (1), "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, state agency, local government unit, another state government, the United States, a political subdivision of this or another state, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(2) "Authorized agent agreement" means the written agreement executed between an authorized agent and the department that sets the technical and operational program standards, compliance criteria, payment options, and service expectations by which the authorized agent is required to operate in performing specific motor vehicle or driver-related record functions.

(3) "Autocycle" means a three-wheeled motorcycle that is equipped with safety belts, roll bars or roll hoops, a steering wheel, and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride it.

(4) "Bus" means a motor vehicle designed for carrying more than 10 passengers and used for the transportation of persons and any other motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

(5) (a) "Business entity" means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other legal entity recognized under state law.

(b) The term does not include an individual.

(6) (a) "Camper" means a structure designed to be mounted in the cargo area of a truck or attached to an incomplete vehicle for the purpose of providing shelter for persons. The term includes but is not limited to a cab-over, half cab-over, noncab-over, telescopic, and telescopic cab-over.

(b) The term does not include a truck canopy cover or topper.

(7) "CDLIS driver record" means the electronic record of a person's commercial driver's license status and history stored as part of the commercial driver's license system established under 49 U.S.C. 31309.

(8) "Certificate of title" means the paper record issued by the department or by the appropriate agency of another jurisdiction that establishes a verifiable record of ownership between an identified person or persons and the motor vehicle specifically described in the record and that provides notice of a perfected security interest in the motor vehicle.

(9) "Commercial driver's license" means:

(a) a driver's license issued under or granted by the laws of this state that authorizes a person to operate a class of commercial motor vehicle; or

(b) the privilege of a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle, whether or not the person holds a valid commercial driver's license.

(10) (a) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the vehicle:

(i) has a gross combination weight rating or a gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater, inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds;

(ii) has a gross vehicle weight rating or a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater;

(iii) is designed to transport at least 16 passengers, including the driver;

(iv) is a school bus; or

(v) is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials.

(b) The following vehicles are not commercial motor vehicles:

(i) an authorized emergency vehicle:

(A) equipped with audible and visual signals as required under 61-9-401 and 61-9-402; and

(B) operated when responding to or returning from an emergency call or operated in another official capacity;

(ii) a vehicle:

(A) controlled and operated by a farmer, family member of the farmer, or person employed by the farmer;

(B) used to transport farm products, farm machinery, or farm supplies to or from the farm within Montana within 150 miles of the farm or, if there is a reciprocity agreement with a state adjoining Montana, within 150 miles of the farm, including any area within that perimeter that is in the adjoining state; and

(C) not used to transport goods for compensation or for hire; or

(iii) a vehicle operated for military purposes by active duty military personnel, a member of the military reserves, a member of the national guard on active duty, including personnel on full-time national guard duty, personnel in part-time national guard training, and national guard military technicians, or active duty United States coast guard personnel.

(c) For purposes of this subsection (10):

(i) "farmer" means a person who operates a farm or who is directly involved in the cultivation of land or crops or the raising of livestock owned by or under the direct control of that person;

(ii) "gross combination weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination or articulated vehicle;

(iii) "gross vehicle weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle; and

(iv) "school bus" has the meaning provided in 49 CFR 383.5.

(11) "Commission" means the state transportation commission.

(12) "Custom-built motorcycle" means a motorcycle that is equipped with:

(a) an engine that was manufactured 20 years prior to the current calendar year and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design; or

(b) an engine that was manufactured to resemble an engine 20 or more years old and that has been constructed in whole or in part from nonoriginal materials.

(13) "Custom vehicle" means a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle that:

(a) (i) was manufactured with a model year after 1948 and that is at least 25 years old; or

(ii) was built to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and at least 25 years before the current calendar year, including a kit vehicle intended to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and that is at least 25 years old; and

(b) has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

(14) "Customer identification number" means:

(a) a driver's license or identification card number when the customer is an individual who has been issued a driver's license or identification card by a state driver licensing authority;

(b) a federal employer or tax identification number when the customer is a business entity that has been issued a federal employer or tax identification number;

(c) the identification number assigned by the secretary of state to a business entity authorized to do business in this state under Title 35 if the customer is a business entity that does not have a federal employer or tax identification number other than a social security number; or

(d) if the customer has not been issued one of the numbers described in subsections (14)(a) through (14)(c), a number assigned to the customer by the department when a transaction is initiated under this title.

(15) (a) "Dealer" means a person that, for commission or profit, engages in whole or in part in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, or accepting on consignment new or used motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, travel trailers, motorboats, sailboats, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles, or special mobile equipment that is not registered in the name of the person.

(b) The term does not include the following:

(i) receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians, or other persons appointed by or acting under a judgment or order of any court of competent jurisdiction;

(ii) employees of the persons included in subsection (15)(b)(i) when engaged in the specific performance of their duties as employees; or

(iii) public officers while performing or in the operation of their duties.

(16) "Declared weight" means the total unladen weight of a vehicle plus the weight of the maximum load to be carried on the vehicle as stated by the registrant in the application for registration.

(17) "Department" means the department of justice acting directly or through its duly authorized officers or agents.

(18) "Dolly or converter gear" means a device consisting of one or two axles with a fifth wheel and trailer tongue used to support the forward end of a semitrailer, converting a semitrailer into a trailer.

(19) "Domiciled" means a place where:

(a) an individual establishes residence;

(b) a business entity maintains its principal place of business;

(c) the business entity's registered agent maintains an address; or

(d) a business entity most frequently uses, dispatches, or controls a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that it owns or leases.

(20) "Downgrade" means the removal of a person's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as maintained by the department on the individual Montana driving record and the CDLIS driver record for that person.

(21) "Driver" means a person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

(22) "Driver's license" means a license or permit to operate a motor vehicle issued under or granted by the laws of this state, including:

(a) any temporary license or learner license;

(b) the privilege of any person to drive a motor vehicle, whether or not the person holds a valid license;

(c) any nonresident's driving privilege;

(d) a motorcycle endorsement; or

(e) a commercial driver's license.

(23) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a device that has two nontandem wheels, is self-balancing, and is designed to transport only one person with an electric propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to 12½ miles an hour.

(24) "For hire" means an action performed for remuneration of any kind, whether paid or promised, either directly or indirectly, or received or obtained through leasing, brokering, or buy-and-sell arrangements from which a remuneration is obtained or derived for transportation service.

(25) (a) "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed for use on a golf course to carry a person or persons and golf equipment and that has an average speed of less than 15 miles per hour.

(b) Except as provided in 61-3-201, a golf cart is exempt from titling, registration, and mandatory liability insurance requirements under this title.

(26) "Gross vehicle weight" means the weight of a vehicle without load plus the weight of any load on the vehicle.

(27) "Hazardous material" means:

(a) any material that has been designated as hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and is required to be placarded under 49 CFR, part 172; or

(b) any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR, part 73.

(28) "Highway" or "public highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part of the publicly maintained way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

(29) "Highway patrol officer" means a state officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

(30) "Implement of husbandry" means a vehicle that is designed for agricultural purposes and exclusively used by the owner of the vehicle in the conduct of the owner's agricultural operations.

(31) "Kit vehicle" is a motor vehicle assembled from a manufactured kit either as:

(a) a complete kit, consisting of a prefabricated body and chassis, to construct a new motor vehicle; or

(b) a kit with a prefabricated body to be mounted to an existing motor vehicle chassis and drivetrain, commonly referred to as a donor vehicle.

(32) "Light vehicle" means a motor vehicle commonly referred to as an automobile, van, sport utility vehicle, or truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less.

(33) "Low-speed electric vehicle" means a motor vehicle, on or by which a person may be transported, that:

(a) has four wheels;

(b) has a maximum speed of at least 20 miles an hour and no greater than 40 miles an hour as certified by the manufacturer;

(c) is propelled by its own power, using an electric motor or other device that transforms stored electrical energy into the motion of the vehicle;

(d) stores electricity in batteries, ultracapacitors, or similar devices, which are charged from the power grid or from renewable electrical energy sources;

(e) has a wheelbase of 40 inches or greater and a wheel diameter of 10 inches or greater;

(f) exhibits a manufacturer's compliance with 49 CFR, part 565, or displays a 17-character vehicle identification number as provided in 49 CFR, part 565; and

(g) is equipped as provided in 61-9-432.

(34) "Low-speed restricted driver's license" means a license limited to the operation of a low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart issued under or granted by the laws of this state, including:

(a) a temporary license or learner license;

(b) the privilege of a person to drive a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart under the authority of 61-5-122, whether or not the person holds a valid driver's license; and

(c) a nonresident's similarly restricted driving privilege.

(35) "Manufactured home" has the meaning provided in 15-24-201.

(36) "Manufacturer" includes any person engaged in the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, travel trailers, motorboats, sailboats, snowmobiles, or off-highway vehicles as a regular business.

(37) "Manufacturer's certificate of origin" means the original paper record produced and issued by the manufacturer of a vehicle or, if in a medium authorized by the department, an electronic record created and transmitted by the manufacturer of a vehicle to the manufacturer's agent or a licensed dealer. The record must establish the origin of the vehicle specifically described in the record and, upon assignment, transfers of ownership of the vehicle to the person or persons named in the certificate.

(38) (a) "Medium-speed electric vehicle" is a motor vehicle, on or by which a person may be transported, that:

(i) has a maximum speed of 45 miles an hour as certified by the manufacturer;

(ii) is propelled by its own power, using an electric motor or other device that transforms stored electrical energy into the motion of the vehicle;

(iii) stores electricity in batteries, ultracapacitors, or similar devices, which are charged from the power grid or from renewable electrical energy sources;

(iv) is fully enclosed and includes at least one door for entry;

(v) has a wheelbase of 40 inches or greater and a wheel diameter of 10 inches or greater;

(vi) exhibits a manufacturer's compliance with 49 CFR, part 565, or displays a 17-character vehicle identification number as provided in 49 CFR, part 565;

(vii) bears a sticker, affixed by the manufacturer or dealer, on the left side of the rear window that indicates the vehicle's maximum speed rating; and

(viii) as certified by the manufacturer, is equipped as provided in 61-9-432.

(b) A medium-speed electric vehicle must be treated as a light vehicle for purposes of titling and registration under Title 61, chapter 3.

(c) A medium-speed electric vehicle may not have a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,000 pounds.

(39) "Mobile home" or "housetrailer" has the meaning provided in 15-24-201.

(40) "Montana resident" means:

(a) an individual who resides in Montana as determined under 1-1-215; or

(b) for the purposes of chapter 3, a business entity that maintains a principal place of business or a registered agent in this state.

(41) (a) "Motor carrier" means a person or corporation or its lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court that are operating motor vehicles on a public highway in this state for the transportation of property for hire on a commercial basis.

(b) The term does not include motor carriers regulated under Title 69, chapter 12.

(42) "Motor home" means a motor vehicle:

(a) designed to provide temporary living quarters, built as an integral part of or permanently attached to a self-propelled motor vehicle chassis or van;

(b) containing permanently installed independent life support systems that meet the NFPA 1192 standard on recreational vehicles; and

(c) providing at least four of the following types of facilities:

(i) cooking, refrigeration, or icebox;

(ii) self-contained toilet;

(iii) heating or air conditioning, or both;

(iv) potable water supply, including a faucet and sink; or

(v) separate 110-volt or 125-volt electrical power supply or a liquefied petroleum gas supply, or both.

(43) (a) "Motor vehicle" means:

(i) a vehicle propelled by its own power and designed or used to transport persons or property on the highways of the state;

(ii) a quadricycle if it is equipped for use on the highways as prescribed in chapter 9; or

(iii) a golf cart only if it is equipped for use on the highways as prescribed in chapter 9 and is operated pursuant to 61-8-391 or by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license.

(b) The term does not include a bicycle or a moped as defined in 61-8-102, an electric personal assistive mobility device, a motorized nonstandard vehicle, or a motorized wheelchair or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle that is designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person and that is used as a means of mobility for that person.

(44) (a) "Motorboat" means a vessel, including a personal watercraft or pontoon, propelled by any machinery, motor, or engine of any description, whether or not the machinery, motor, or engine is the principal source of propulsion. The term includes boats temporarily equipped with detachable motors or engines.

(b) The term does not include a vessel that has a valid marine document issued by the United States coast guard or any successor federal agency.

(45) (a) "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle that has a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and that is designated to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. A motorcycle may carry one or more attachments and a seat for the conveyance of a passenger.

(b) A motorcycle designed for use on highways is a motor vehicle unless otherwise prescribed.

(c) A motorcycle designed for off-road recreational use is an off-highway vehicle unless it has been modified to meet the equipment standards specified in chapter 9 and has been registered for highway use.

(d) The term includes an autocycle.

(e) The term does not include a tractor, a bicycle or a moped as defined in 61-8-102, a motorized nonstandard vehicle, or a two- or three-wheeled all-terrain vehicle that is used exclusively on private property.

(46) (a) "Motor-driven cycle" means a motorcycle, including a motor scooter, with a motor that produces 5 horsepower or less.

(b) The term does not include a bicycle or a moped, as defined in 61-8-102, or a motorized nonstandard vehicle.

(47) (a) "Motorized nonstandard vehicle" means a vehicle, on or by which a person may be transported, that:

(i) is propelled by its own power, using an internal combustion engine or an electric motor;

(ii) has a wheelbase of less than 40 inches and a wheel diameter of less than 10 inches; and

(iii) does not display a manufacturer's certification in accordance with 49 CFR, part 567, or have a 17-character vehicle identification number assigned by the manufacturer in accordance with 49 CFR, part 565.

(b) The term includes but is not limited to a motorized skateboard and a vehicle commonly known as a "pocket rocket".

(c) The term does not include a moped as defined in 61-8-102, an electric personal assistive mobility device, or a motorized wheelchair or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person.

(48) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, regardless of the mileage of the vehicle, the legal or equitable title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer to another person as the result of a retail sale.

(49) "Nonresident" means a person who is not a Montana resident.

(50) (a) "Not used for general transportation purposes" means the operation of a motor vehicle registered as a collector's item, a custom vehicle, a street rod, or a custom-built motorcycle to or from a car or motorcycle club activity or event or an exhibit, show, cruise night, or parade, or for other occasional transportation activity.

(b) The term does not include operation of a motor vehicle for routine or ordinary household maintenance, employment, education, or other similar purposes.

(51) (a) "Off-highway vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for recreation or cross-country travel on public lands, trails, easements, lakes, rivers, or streams. The term includes but is not limited to motorcycles, quadricycles, dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, air cushion vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) vehicles designed primarily for travel on, over, or in the water;

(ii) snowmobiles; or

(iii) motor vehicles designed to transport persons or property on the highways unless the vehicle is used for off-road recreation on public lands.

(52) "Operator" means a person who is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle.

(53) "Owner" means each person who holds the legal title to a vehicle. If a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale of the vehicle with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession and control vested in an individual human being or in the event a vehicle is subject to a lease, contract, or other legal arrangement vesting right of possession or control, for security or otherwise in an individual human being, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession and control, then the owner is the individual human being or mortgagor in whom is vested the right of possession and control.

(54) "Person" means an individual human being, corporation, partnership, association, firm, or other legal entity.

(55) "Personal watercraft" means a vessel that uses an outboard motor or an inboard engine powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than by the conventional method of sitting or standing in the vessel.

(56) "Pole trailer" means a vehicle without power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, pipes, or structural members capable generally of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

(57) "Police officer" means an officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.

(58) (a) "Quadricycle" means a four-wheeled motor vehicle, designed for on-road or off-road use, having a seat or saddle on which the operator sits.

(b) The term does not include golf carts.

(59) "Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property on cars, other than streetcars, operated on stationary rails.

(60) (a) "Railroad train" or "train" means a steam engine or electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled to the engine, that is operated on rails.

(b) The term does not include streetcars.

(61) "Recreational vehicle" includes a motor home, travel trailer, or camper.

(62) "Registration" or "register" means the act or process of creating an electronic record, maintained by the department, of the assignment of a license plate or a set of license plates to and the issuance of a registration decal for a specific vehicle, the ownership of which has been established or is presumed in department records.

(63) "Registration decal" means an adhesive sticker produced by the department and issued by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer to the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or snowmobile as proof of payment of all fees imposed for the registration period indicated on the sticker as recorded by the department under 61-3-101.

(64) "Registration receipt" means a paper record that is produced and issued or, if authorized by the department, an electronic record that is transmitted by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer to the owner of a vehicle that identifies a vehicle, based on information maintained in the electronic record of title for the vehicle, and that provides evidence of the payment of all fees required to be paid for the registration of the vehicle for the registration period indicated in the receipt.

(65) "Retail sale" means the sale of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, motorboat, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, or special mobile equipment by a dealer to a person for purposes other than resale.

(66) "Revocation" means the termination by action of the department of a person's driver's license, privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways, and privilege to apply for and be issued a driver's license for a period of time designated by law, during which the license or privilege may not be renewed, restored, or exercised. An application for a new license may be presented and acted on by the department after the expiration of the period of the revocation.

(67) "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder. In the event that a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term refers to any roadway separately but not to all roadways collectively.

(68) (a) "Sailboat" means a vessel that uses a sail and wind as its primary source of propulsion.

(b) The term does not include a canoe or kayak propelled by wind.

(69) "School zone" means an area near a school beginning at the school's front door, encompassing the campus and school property, and including the streets directly adjacent to the school property and for as many blocks surrounding the school as determined by the local authority establishing a special speed limit under 61-8-310(1)(d).

(70) "Sell" means to transfer ownership from one person to another person or from a dealer to another person for consideration.

(71) "Semitrailer" means a vehicle, with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests on or is carried by another vehicle.

(72) "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle of an overall width of 48 inches or less, excluding accessories, that is designed primarily for travel on snow or ice, that may be steered by skis or runners, and that is not otherwise registered or licensed under the laws of the state of Montana.

(73) "Special mobile equipment" means a vehicle not designed for the transportation of persons or property on the highways but incidentally operated or moved over the highways, including road construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus, and well-boring apparatus. The fact that equipment is permanently attached to a vehicle does not make the vehicle special mobile equipment. The enumeration in this subsection is partial and does not exclude other vehicles that are within the general terms of this subsection.

(74) (a) "Specially constructed vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, that:

(i) was not originally constructed under a distinctive make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of motor vehicles;

(ii) has been structurally modified so that it does not have the same appearance as similar vehicles from a generally recognized manufacturer of motor vehicles;

(iii) has been constructed or assembled entirely from custom-built parts and materials not obtained from other vehicles;

(iv) has been constructed or assembled by using major component parts from one or more manufactured vehicles and that cannot be identified as a specific make or model; or

(v) has been constructed by the use of a kit that cannot be visually identified as a specific make or model.

(b) The term does not include a motor vehicle that has been repaired or restored to its original design by replacing parts.

(75) (a) "Sport utility vehicle" means a light vehicle designed to transport 10 or fewer persons that is constructed on a truck chassis or that has special features for occasional off-road use.

(b) The term does not include trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less.

(76) (a) "Stop", when required, means complete cessation from movement.

(b) "Stop", "stopping", or "standing", when prohibited, means any stopping or standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer, highway patrol officer, or traffic control sign or signal.

(77) "Storage lot" means property owned, leased, or rented by a dealer that is not contiguous to the dealer's established place of business where a motor vehicle from the dealer's inventory may be placed when space at the dealer's established place of business is not available.

(78) "Street" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part of the publicly maintained way is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

(79) "Street rod" means a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, that:

(a) was manufactured prior to 1949 or was built to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949, including a kit vehicle intended to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and

(b) has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from nonoriginal materials.

(80) "Suspension" means the temporary withdrawal by action of the department of a person's driver's license, privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways, and privilege to apply for or be issued a driver's license for a period of time designated by law.

(81) "Temporary registration permit" means a paper record:

(a) issued by the department, an authorized agent, a county treasurer, or a person, using a department-approved electronic interface after an electronic record has been transmitted to the department, that contains:

(i) required vehicle and owner information; and

(ii) the purpose for which the record was generated; and

(b) that, when placed in a durable license-plate style plastic pouch approved by the department and displayed as prescribed in 61-3-224, authorizes a person to operate the described motor vehicle, motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for:

(i) 40 days from the date the record is issued or until the vehicle is registered under Title 23 or this title, whichever first occurs; or

(ii) 90 days from the date the record is issued for a permit issued pursuant to 61-3-303(4)(b).

(82) "Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, streetcars, and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highways for purposes of travel.

(83) (a) "Trailer" means a vehicle, with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no part of its weight rests on the towing vehicle.

(b) The term does not include a mobile home or a manufactured home, as defined in 15-1-101.

(84) "Transaction summary receipt" means an electronic record produced and issued by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer for which a paper receipt is issued. The record may be created by the department and transmitted to the owner of a vehicle, a secured party, or a lienholder. The record must contain a unique transaction record number and summarize and verify the electronic filing of the transaction described in the receipt on the electronic record of title maintained under 61-3-101.

(85) "Travel trailer" means a vehicle:

(a) that is 46 feet or less in length;

(b) that is of a size or weight that does not require special permits when towed by a motor vehicle; and

(c) that is designed to provide temporary facilities for recreational, travel, or camping use and not used as a principal residence.

(86) "Truck" or "motortruck" means a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

(87) "Truck tractor" means a motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not constructed to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and load drawn.

(88) "Under the influence" has the meaning provided in 61-8-1001.

(89) "Used motor vehicle" includes any motor vehicle that has been sold, bargained, exchanged, or given away or had its title transferred from the person who first took title to it from the manufacturer, importer, dealer, wholesaler, or agent of the manufacturer or importer and that has been used so as to have become what is commonly known as "secondhand" within the ordinary meaning of that term.

(90) "Van" means a motor vehicle designed for the transportation of at least six persons and not more than nine persons and intended for but not limited to family or personal transportation without compensation.

(91) (a) "Vehicle" means a device in, on, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn on a public highway, except devices moved by animal power or used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.

(b) The term does not include a manually or mechanically propelled wheelchair or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle that is designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person and that is used as a means of mobility for that person.

(92) "Vehicle identification number" means the number, letters, or combination of numbers and letters assigned by the manufacturer, by the department, or in accordance with the laws of another state or country for the purpose of identifying the motor vehicle or a component part of the motor vehicle.

(93) "Vessel" means every description of watercraft, unless otherwise defined by the department, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(94) "Wholesaler" means a person that for a commission or with intent to make a profit or gain of money or other thing of value sells, exchanges, or attempts to negotiate a sale or exchange of an interest in a used motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, motorboat, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, or special mobile equipment only to dealers and auto auctions licensed under chapter 4, part 1.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-118; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1979; (10), (23), (38), (60), (64)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 458, L. 2005; (1), (2), (9)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 596, L. 2005; (50)En. Sec. 137, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 233, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 241, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 11 thru 14, Ch. 468, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 129, 133 thru 136, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 374, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-1-102. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 6-215, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 74, L. 1975; Sec. 32-3315, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1975; Sec. 53-107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315(part), 53-107(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-1-103. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1973; Sec. 31-119, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; Sec. 53-133, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-119(a), 53-133(i); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 563, L. 2001.

61-1-104. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(j); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1997.

61-1-105. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-133(b); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 508, L. 1979.

61-1-106. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(d); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 508, L. 1979.

61-1-107. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2104(a); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-108. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2103(a); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-109. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 31-119(c); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-110. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2103(c).

61-1-111. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1957; Sec. 32-2105, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; Sec. 53-133, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2105(a), 53-133(d); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-112. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1957; Sec. 32-1205, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; Sec. 53-133, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2105(b), 53-133(e); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-113. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. 32-1123.2 by Sec. 13, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.2(7).

61-1-114. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2105(c).

61-1-115. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1973; Sec. 31-119, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-119(e).

61-1-116. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1973; Sec. 31-119, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-119(d); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 525, L. 1983.

61-1-117. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-133(j); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 383, L. 1991.

61-1-118. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(e).

61-1-119. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(f); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-1-120. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(g); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 283, L. 1995.

61-1-121. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 21.2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2123(b).

61-1-122. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2104(c).

61-1-123. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2102(i); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 1983.

61-1-124. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2107(b).

61-1-125. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2106(a).

61-1-126. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2106(b).

61-1-127. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2106(c).

61-1-128. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. 32-1123.2 by Sec. 13, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.2(8).

61-1-129. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-644; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-1-130. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

61-1-131. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1983.

61-1-132. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-1-133. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-1-134. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 428, L. 2003.

61-1-135. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 428, L. 2003.

61-1-136. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 195, L. 1993.

61-1-137. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 443, L. 1987.

61-1-138. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 791, L. 1991.

61-1-139. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 496, L. 1997.

61-1-140. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 496, L. 1997.

61-1-141. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-1-142. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2003.

Part 2
Roads
(Repealed)

61-1-201. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-122(part); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-202. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 242, L. 1971; Sec. 32-1638, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-1631.1 by Sec. 48, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1631.1; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-203. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-122(part); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-204. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 21.2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2123(a).

61-1-205. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(b).

61-1-206. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1991.

61-1-207. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(e).

61-1-208. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(d).

61-1-209. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2116.

61-1-210. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(f).

61-1-211. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2114(g).

61-1-212. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2115.

Part 3
Persons — Agencies
(Repealed)

61-1-301. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-123(b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-1-302. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-123(a).

61-1-303. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2110(c); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995.

61-1-304. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2112(part).

61-1-305. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2112(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989.

61-1-306. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2113.

61-1-307. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1977; Sec. 51-609, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1967; Sec. 53-418, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 51-609(4), 53-418(11); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-308. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2111(b).

61-1-309. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2111(c).

61-1-310. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-702(3); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-311. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-418(9); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-312. Repealed. Sec. 39, Ch. 443, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 267, L. 1947; Sec. 31-120, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-120(c).

61-1-313. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-121.

61-1-314. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 1937; Sec. 51-202, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 51-609 by Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1977; Sec. 51-609, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; Sec. 53-133, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 51-609(2), 53-133(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 385, L. 2001.

61-1-315. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-133(h); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-316. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1763, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-133(part); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-317. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2107(a).

61-1-318. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 482, L. 1993.

61-1-319. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 383, L. 1991.

61-1-320. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 358, L. 1995.

61-1-321. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

Part 4
Traffic Control
(Repealed)

61-1-401. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2120.

61-1-402. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2119(b).

61-1-403. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2119(a); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-1-404. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2119(c).

61-1-405. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2117.

61-1-406. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2121.

61-1-407. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 21.1, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2122; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989.

61-1-408. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2118(a).

61-1-409. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2118(b).

61-1-410. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 21.2, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2123(c).

61-1-411. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2119(d); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

61-1-412. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2119(e); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

61-1-413. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 338, L. 1991.

61-1-414. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 338, L. 1991.

61-1-415. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 338, L. 1991.

Part 5
Miscellaneous
(Repealed)

61-1-501. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2105(d); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 482, L. 1993.

61-1-502. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2109; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 1995.

61-1-503. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-124(a).

61-1-504. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-124(b); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-1-505. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-124(c).

61-1-506. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2108(a).

61-1-507. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2108(b).

61-1-508. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-418(13).

61-1-509. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-1-510. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 88, L. 1995.

61-1-511. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1995.

61-1-512. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1997.

61-1-513. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1997.

61-1-514. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-1-515. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

Part 6
Records
(Repealed)

61-1-601. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-1-602. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-1-603. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-1-604. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 2
HIGHWAY SAFETY

Part 1 — Traffic Safety Program

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61-2-107. License reinstatement fee to fund county drinking and driving prevention programs.
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61-2-506. Rulemaking authority.
61-2-507. Emergency grant appropriations.

Chapter Cross-References

Highway code, Title 60, ch. 1.
Commercial motor vehicle safety, Title 61, ch. 8, part 8.

Part 1
Traffic Safety Program

61-2-101. Purpose. To promote public safety, health, and welfare and to reduce traffic deaths, injuries, and property losses resulting from traffic accidents, it is in the public interest to establish a highway traffic safety program and provide for its administration. It is in the public interest to implement, modernize, and improve the following traffic safety activities: driver performance, including but not limited to driver education, driver testing to determine proficiency to operate motor vehicles; driver examinations, both physical and mental; driver licensing; pedestrian performance; establish an effective accident record system, including traffic accident investigation to determine the probable cause of accidents, injuries, and deaths; improve and establish a system of vehicle registration, vehicle operation, and vehicle inspection; assist in the improving of highway design and maintenance, including lighting, markings, and surface treatment to improve safety; establish an effective traffic control system; promote the adoption of uniform vehicle laws; provide for surveillance of traffic for detection and correction of high or potentially high accident locations; establish emergency services, including but not limited to communications, medical or mechanical assistance, and ambulance service for injured persons; and establish an effective compilation and storage program of reports and records through electronic data processing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4601.

Cross-References

Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.

61-2-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(2) "Highway traffic safety program" means a program designed to reduce traffic accidents, deaths, injuries to persons, and damage to property. The program must be in accordance with uniform guidelines established pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 402, as amended, and may include defensive driving programs administered by the entity designated by the governor in 61-2-103.

Nothing in this part restricts or prohibits the establishment of standards that enlarge or implement the federal standards.

(3) "Political subdivisions" means each county, incorporated city or town, and school district within the boundaries of the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4602; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 538, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 576, L. 2005.

61-2-103. Duties. (1) The governor is responsible for the administration of the highway traffic safety program. The governor may contract and do all other things necessary to secure the full benefits available to this state under the federal Highway Safety Act, 23 U.S.C. 401 through 403, and, in so doing, may cooperate with federal and state agencies, private and public organizations, and individuals to effectuate the purposes of that enactment and all amendments to it. The governor may appoint an administrator of the highway traffic safety program to carry out the governor's responsibilities under this part. For purposes of participation in the federal Highway Safety Act, 23 U.S.C. 401 through 403, the governor shall designate the superintendent of public instruction as the state agency responsible for all aspects of federally assisted driver education and safety programs in the public schools, including the approval of the programs, certification of teachers, and the acceptance, allocation, and expenditure of funds for driver education in accordance with applicable federal laws and regulations. Nothing in this part interferes with the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 5, or 20-9-603.

(2) The department shall:

(a) advise and assist the governor in all matters of highway safety;

(b) establish a continuing and adequate research program designed to determine the causes of accidents and effect a program of prevention; and

(c) cooperate with the office of public instruction to provide support and maintenance of driver training facilities that comply with the federal Highway Safety Act, 23 U.S.C. 401 through 403.

(3) The department of justice shall:

(a) establish a uniform system of driver licensing, including mental and physical standards; and

(b) prescribe and establish safety regulations for motor vehicles and operators.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 177, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4605; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 538, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.
Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2-15-701.
Insurance discount for mature driver completing program, 33-16-222.

61-2-104. Funds. The governor and the department may enter into contracts with the federal government to secure maximum federal appropriation. At least 40% of all federal funds received by the state shall be spent by the political subdivisions of the state in carrying out local approved highway traffic safety programs. Except as provided in this part, the governor may accept all gifts, money, and funds to implement the purposes of this part. The expenditure of funds, exclusive of the federal appropriation, shall be maintained at a level which shall not fall below the average level of the expenditures for the last 2 full fiscal years preceding July 1, 1966, as determined by the expenditures of state and political subdivisions.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4606.

Cross-References

Federal revenue and endowments, Title 17, ch. 3.
Highways — distribution and apportionment of highway funds, Title 60, ch. 3.

61-2-105. Local programs. Except as provided in this part, all highway traffic safety programs of political subdivisions must be approved by the governor and funds may not be spent unless the governor's approval is obtained. All local and state officials shall cooperate with the governor and department to accomplish the purposes of this part. The governor shall administer the highway traffic safety programs of this state and its political subdivisions in accordance with this part and federal rules.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 177, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4607; amd. Sec. 1935, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Limits on disbursements and expenditures, Title 17, ch. 8, part 1.

61-2-106. County drinking and driving prevention program. (1) The governing body of a county may appoint a task force to study the problem of alcohol-related traffic accidents and recommend a program designed to:

(a) prevent driving while under the influence of alcohol;

(b) reduce alcohol-related traffic accidents; and

(c) educate the public on the dangers of driving after consuming alcoholic beverages or other chemical substances that impair judgment or motor functions.

(2) A task force appointed under subsection (1) shall conduct its study and submit its recommendations within 6 months from the date it was appointed. Task force meetings are open to the public. The task force shall give notice by publication in the community meeting announcement section of a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

(3) The county governing body may by resolution adopt the recommendations of the task force appointed under subsection (1). The proposed program must be approved by the governor as provided in 61-2-105.

(4) The presiding officer of the task force shall submit to the county governing body:

(a) a budget and a financial report for each fiscal year; and

(b) an annual report containing but not limited to:

(i) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program;

(ii) the number of arrests and convictions in the county for driving under the influence of alcohol and the sentences imposed for these convictions;

(iii) the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents in the county; and

(iv) any other information requested by the county governing body or considered appropriate by the task force.

(5) A copy of the annual report may be submitted to the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 643, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 751, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1936, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, Title 61, ch. 8, part 10.

61-2-107. License reinstatement fee to fund county drinking and driving prevention programs. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law of the state, a driver's license that has been suspended or revoked under 61-5-205 or 61-8-1016 must remain suspended or revoked until the driver has paid to the department a fee of $200 in addition to any other fines, forfeitures, and penalties assessed as a result of conviction for a violation of the traffic laws of the state.

(2) The department shall deposit one-half of the fees collected under subsection (1) in the general fund and the other half in an account in the state special revenue fund to be used for funding county drinking and driving prevention programs as provided in 61-2-108.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 643, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 751, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 18, L. 1995;. amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-2-108. Funding allocation for programs to prevent or reduce drinking and driving. (1) If the county in which the violation or violations occurred has initiated and maintained a drinking and driving prevention program as provided in 61-2-106, the department shall transmit the county portion of the proceeds of the license reinstatement fees collected in that county to the county treasurer, as provided in 61-2-107(2), at the end of each quarter.

(2) Funds deposited in the state special revenue fund pursuant to 61-2-107(2) for violations occurring in a county that has not initiated and maintained a drinking and driving prevention program as provided in 61-2-106 must be distributed July 1 of each year, on an equal basis, to those counties that have an approved program under 61-2-106.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 643, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 751, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 245, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2015.

61-2-109. Emergency medical services grants. The department of transportation shall report to the governor and the legislative fiscal analyst no later than November 1 of the year preceding a regular session of the legislature regarding emergency medical services grants that are awarded during each biennium. The report must be provided in an electronic format and include a listing of all grant requests and a listing of grants awarded, including a summary of the use of grant funds. The department shall provide a copy of the report to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Vehicle Equipment Safety

Part Cross-References

Vehicle equipment, Title 61, ch. 9.

61-2-201. Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact".

Article I. Findings and Purposes

(1) The party states find that:

(a) accidents and deaths on their streets and highways present a very serious human and economic problem with a major deleterious effect on the public welfare;

(b) there is a vital need for the development of greater interjurisdictional cooperation to achieve the necessary uniformity in the laws, rules, regulations, and codes relating to vehicle equipment, and to accomplish this by such means as will minimize the time between the development of demonstrably and scientifically sound safety features and their incorporation into vehicles.

(2) The purposes of this compact are to:

(a) promote uniformity in regulation of and standards for equipment;

(b) secure uniformity of law and administrative practice in vehicular regulation and related safety standards to permit incorporation of desirable equipment changes in vehicles in the interest of greater traffic safety;

(c) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research which will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in subsection (1) of this article.

(3) It is the intent of this compact to emphasize performance requirements and not to determine the specific detail of engineering in the manufacture of vehicles or equipment except to the extent necessary for the meeting of such performance requirements.

Article II. Definitions

As used in this compact:

(1) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(2) "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(3) "Equipment" means any part of a vehicle or any accessory for use thereon which affects the safety of operation of such vehicle or the safety of the occupants.

Article III. The Commission

(1) There is hereby created an agency of the party states to be known as the "Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission", hereinafter called the commission. The commission shall be composed of one commissioner from each party state who shall be appointed, serve, and be subject to removal in accordance with the laws of the state which the commissioner represents. If authorized by the laws of the commissioner's party state, a commissioner may provide for the discharge of the commissioner's duties and the performance of the commissioner's functions on the commission, either for the duration of the commissioner's membership or for any lesser period of time, by an alternate. No such alternate shall be entitled to serve unless notification of the alternate's identity and appointment shall have been given to the commission in such form as the commission may require. Each commissioner, and each alternate when serving in the place and stead of a commissioner, shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the commission for

expenses actually incurred in attending commission meetings or while engaged in the business of the commission.

(2) The commissioners shall be entitled to one vote each on the commission. No action of the commission shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of votes on the commission are cast in favor thereof. Action of the commission shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the commissioners, or their alternates, are present.

(3) The commission shall have a seal.

(4) The commission shall elect annually, from among its members, a presiding officer, a vice presiding officer, and a treasurer. The commission may appoint an executive director and fix the director's duties and compensation. Such executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the commission, and together with the treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the commission shall determine. The executive director also shall serve as secretary. If there be no executive director, the commission shall elect a secretary in addition to the other officers provided by this subdivision.

(5) Irrespective of the civil service, personnel, or other merit system laws of any of the party states, the executive director with the approval of the commission, or the commission if there be no executive director, shall appoint, remove, or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the commission's functions, and shall fix the duties and compensation of such personnel.

(6) The commission may establish and maintain independently or in conjunction with any one or more of the party states a suitable retirement system for its full time employees. Employees of the commission shall be eligible for social security coverage in respect of old age and survivor's insurance provided that the commission takes such steps as may be necessary pursuant to the laws of the United States to participate in such program of insurance as a governmental agency or unit. The commission may establish and maintain or participate in such additional programs of employee benefits as may be appropriate.

(7) The commission may borrow, accept, or contract for the services of personnel from any party state, the United States, or any subdivision or agency of the aforementioned governments, or from any agency of two or more of the party states or their subdivisions.

(8) The commission may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any other governmental agency and may receive, utilize, and dispose of the same.

(9) The commission may establish and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the transacting of its business. The commission may acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property and any interest therein.

(10) The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind these bylaws. The commission shall publish its bylaws in convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states. The bylaws shall provide for appropriate notice to the commissioners of all commission meetings and hearings and the business to be transacted at such meetings or hearings. Such notice shall also be given to such agencies or officers of each party state as the laws of such party state may provide.

(11) The commission annually shall make to the governor and legislature of each party state a report covering the activities of the commission for the preceding year, and embodying such recommendations as may have been issued by the commission. The commission may make such additional reports as it may deem desirable.

Article IV. Research and Testing

The commission shall have power to:

(1) collect, correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in equipment and related fields;

(2) recommend and encourage the undertaking of research and testing in any aspect of equipment or related matters when, in its judgment, appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been undertaken;

(3) contract for such equipment research and testing as one or more governmental agencies may agree to have contracted for by the commission, provided that such governmental agency or agencies shall make available the funds necessary for such research and testing;

(4) recommend to the party states changes in law or policy with emphasis on uniformity of laws and administrative rules, regulations, or codes which would promote effective governmental action or coordination in the prevention of equipment-related highway accidents or the mitigation of equipment-related highway safety problems.

Article V. Vehicular Equipment

(1) In the interest of vehicular and public safety, the commission may study the need for or desirability of the establishment of or changes in performance requirements or restrictions for any item of equipment. As a result of such study, the commission may publish a report relating to any item or items of equipment, and the issuance of such a report shall be a condition precedent to any proceedings or other action provided or authorized by this article. No less than 60 days after the publication of a report containing the results of such study, the commission upon due notice shall hold a hearing or hearings at such place or places as it may determine.

(2) Following the hearing or hearings provided for in subsection (1) of this article, and with due regard for standards recommended by appropriate professional and technical associations and agencies, the commission may issue rules, regulations, or codes embodying performance requirements or restrictions for any item or items of equipment covered in the report, which in the opinion of the commission will be fair and equitable and effectuate the purposes of this compact.

(3) Each party state obligates itself to give due consideration to any and all rules, regulations, and codes issued by the commission and hereby declares its policy and intent to be the promotion of uniformity in the laws of the several party states relating to equipment.

(4) The commission shall send prompt notice of its action in issuing any rule, regulation, or code pursuant to this article to the appropriate motor vehicle agency of each party state and such notice shall contain the complete text of the rule, regulation, or code.

(5) If the constitution of a party state requires, or if its statutes provide, the approval of the legislature by appropriate resolution or act may be made a condition precedent to the taking effect in such party state of any rule, regulation, or code. In such event, the commissioner of such party state shall submit any commission rule, regulation, or code to the legislature as promptly as may be in lieu of administrative acceptance or rejection thereof by the party state.

(6) Except as otherwise specifically provided in or pursuant to subsections (5) and (7) of this article, the appropriate motor vehicle agency of a party state shall in accordance with its constitution or procedural laws adopt the rule, regulation, or code within 6 months of the sending of the notice and, upon such adoption, the rule, regulation, or code shall have the force and effect of law therein.

(7) The appropriate motor vehicle agency of a party state may decline to adopt a rule, regulation, or code issued by the commission pursuant to this article if such agency specifically finds, after public hearing on due notice, that a variation from the commission's rule, regulation, or code is necessary to the public safety, and incorporates in such finding the reasons upon which it is based. Any such finding shall be subject to review by such procedure for review of administrative determinations as may be applicable pursuant to the laws of the party state. Upon request, the commission shall be furnished with a copy of the transcript of any hearings held pursuant to this subsection.

Article VI. Finance

(1) The commission shall submit to the executive head or designated officer or officers of each party state a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that party state for presentation to the legislature thereof.

(2) Each of the commission's budgets of estimated expenditures shall contain specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be appropriated by each of the party states. The total amount of appropriations under any such budget shall be apportioned among the party states as follows: one-third in equal shares and the remainder in proportion to the number of motor vehicles registered in each party state. In determining the number of such registrations,

the commission may employ such source or sources of information as in its judgment present the most equitable and accurate comparisons among the party states. Each of the commission's budgets of estimated expenditures and requests for appropriations shall indicate the source or sources used in obtaining information concerning vehicular registrations.

(3) The commission shall not pledge the credit of any party state. The commission may meet any of its obligations in whole or in part with funds available to it under Article III(8) of this compact, provided that the commission takes specific action setting aside such funds prior to incurring any obligation to be met in whole or in part in such manner. Except where the commission makes use of funds available to it under Article III(8) hereof, the commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the same.

(4) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its rules. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a qualified public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual reports of the commission.

(5) The accounts of the commission shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly constituted officers of the party states and by any persons authorized by the commission.

(6) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent commission compliance with laws relating to audit or inspection of accounts by or on behalf of any government contributing to the support of the commission.

Article VII. Conflict of Interest

(1) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations with respect to conflict of interest for the commissioners of the party states, and their alternates, if any, and for the staff of the commission and contractors with the commission to the end that no member or employee or contractor shall have a pecuniary or other incompatible interest in the manufacture, sale, or distribution of motor vehicles or vehicular equipment or in any facility or enterprise employed by the commission or on its behalf for testing, conduct of investigations, or research. In addition to any penalty for violation of such rules and regulations as may be applicable under the laws of the violator's jurisdiction of residence, employment, or business, any violation of a commission rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this article shall require the immediate discharge of any violating employee and the immediate vacating of membership, or relinquishing of status as a member on the commission by any commissioner or alternate. In the case of a contractor, any violation of any such rule or regulation shall make any contract of the violator with the commission subject to cancellation by the commission.

(2) Nothing contained in this article shall be deemed to prevent a contractor for the commission from using any facilities subject to the contractor's control in the performance of the contract even though such facilities are not devoted solely to work of or done on behalf of the commission, or to prevent such a contractor from receiving remuneration or profit from the use of such facilities.

Article VIII. Advisory and Technical Committees

The commission may establish such advisory and technical committees as it may deem necessary, membership on which may include private citizens and public officials, and may cooperate with and use the services of any such committees and the organizations which the members represent in furthering any of its activities.

Article IX. Entry Into Force and Withdrawal

(1) This compact shall enter into force when enacted into law by any six or more states. Thereafter, this compact shall become effective as to any other state upon its enactment thereof.

(2) Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 1 year after the executive head of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the executive heads of all other party states. No withdrawal shall affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

Article X. Construction and Severability

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating herein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-166; amd. Sec. 1937, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

61-2-202. Legislative findings on equipment safety. The legislature finds that:

(1) the public safety necessitates the continuous development, modernization, and implementation of standards and requirements of law relating to vehicle equipment, in accordance with expert knowledge and opinion;

(2) the public safety further requires that such standards and requirements be uniform from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, except to the extent that specific and compelling evidence supports variation;

(3) the department, acting upon recommendations of the vehicle equipment safety commission and pursuant to the Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact, provides a just, equitable, and orderly means of promoting the public safety in the manner and within the scope contemplated by this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-167; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-2-203. Equipment requirements continued in force. Provisions of chapter 9 of this title shall continue to be in effect. The approval of the legislature is a condition precedent to the taking effect of any rule, regulation, or code that may be adopted by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-168; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-2-204. State commissioner on vehicle equipment safety commission. Notwithstanding section 1, Chapter 272, Laws of 1971, the commissioner of this state on the vehicle equipment safety commission is the highway patrol chief who shall serve during the continuance as highway patrol chief. The commissioner appointed pursuant to this section may designate an alternate from among the officers and employees of the highway patrol to serve in the commissioner's place on the vehicle equipment safety commission. Subject to the provisions of the compact and bylaws of the vehicle equipment safety commission, the authority and responsibilities of the alternate are as determined by the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-169; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1938, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Highway Patrol Chief, Title 44, ch. 1, part 2.

61-2-205. Retirement of equipment safety commission employees. The public employees retirement board of Montana may make an agreement with the vehicle equipment safety commission for the coverage of said commission's employees pursuant to Article III(6) of the compact. Any such agreement, as nearly as may be, shall provide for arrangements similar to those available to the employees of this state and shall be subject to amendment or termination in accordance with its terms.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-170.

Cross-References

Administration of PERS, Title 19, ch. 3, part 3.

61-2-206. Governmental agencies to cooperate with equipment safety commission. Within appropriations available therefor, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state may cooperate with and assist the vehicle equipment safety commission within the scope contemplated by Article III(8) of the compact. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with said commission.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-171.

61-2-207. Documents filed and notices given by equipment safety commission. Filing of documents as required by Article III(10) of the compact must be with the department. All notices required by commission bylaws to be given pursuant to Article III(10) of the compact must be given to the commissioner of this state and the commissioner's alternate.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-172; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1939, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.

61-2-208. Equipment safety commission funds. (1) Pursuant to Article VI(1) of the compact, the vehicle equipment safety commission shall submit its budgets to the state budget director.

(2) Pursuant to Article VI(5) of the compact, the department of administration may inspect the accounts of the vehicle equipment safety commission.

History: En. Secs. 5, 9, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-173, 32-21-174; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 483, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Budget systems and program plans, Title 17, ch. 7, part 1.

61-2-209. Governor as executive head for compact purposes. The term "executive head" as used in Article IX(2) of the compact shall, with reference to this state, mean the governor.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 109, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-175.

Cross-References

Governor, Title 2, ch. 15, part 2.

Part 3
Driver Improvement Program

61-2-301. Purpose. The toll of accidents, personal injuries, and deaths resulting from the operation of motor vehicles remains a matter of great concern to the legislature. The failure to apply proper driving techniques in the operation of vehicles and improper driving attitudes and habits on the part of operators constitute major factors in a substantial portion of both fatal and nonfatal automobile accidents. Current efforts to improve driver skills, responsibilities, attitudes, and habits have not proved adequate to stem the accident, injury, and death toll. The public interest in the cause of highway safety will be well served by additional methods of driver rehabilitation and improvement and the establishment of programs of rehabilitative instruction, driver improvement, and direction for drivers with poor driving records.

History: En. 31-191 by Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-191.

61-2-302. Establishment of driver rehabilitation and improvement program — participation by offending drivers. (1) The department may establish by administrative rule a driver rehabilitation and improvement program or programs. The programs may consist of electronic or classroom instruction in rules of the road, driving techniques, defensive driving, driver attitudes and habits, actual on-the-road driver's training, and other subjects or tasks designed to contribute to proper driving attitudes, habits, and techniques and must include the requirements for obtaining a restricted probationary driver's license.

(2) Except when otherwise provided or restricted by statute, a person whose driver's license is suspended or revoked by the department, unless the suspension or revocation was for an offense under 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), or (1)(e), may participate in any driver rehabilitation and improvement program established under this section if the person's license is:

(a) suspended as a result of a violation of the traffic laws of this state, unless the suspension was imposed under the authority provided in Title 61, chapter 8, part 8; or

(b) revoked and the person has:

(i) completed at least 3 months of a 1-year revocation; or

(ii) completed 1 year of a 3-year revocation; and

(iii) met the requirements for reobtaining a Montana driver's license.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this part inconsistent with any other law of the state of Montana, the enforcement of any suspension or revocation order that constitutes the basis for any person's participation in the driver rehabilitation and improvement program provided for in this section may be stayed if that person complies with the requirements established for the driver rehabilitation and improvement program and meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (2).

(4) If a person's driver's license has been surrendered before the person's selection for participation in the driver rehabilitation and improvement program, the license may be returned upon receipt of the person's agreement to participate in the program.

(5) The stay of enforcement of any suspension or revocation action must be terminated and the suspension or revocation action must be reinstated if a person declines to participate in the driver rehabilitation and improvement program or fails to meet the attendance or other requirements established for participation in the program.

(6) This part does not create a right to be included in any program established under this part.

(7) The department may establish a schedule of fees that may be charged to those persons participating in the driver improvement and rehabilitation program. The fees must be used to help defray costs of maintaining the program.

(8) A person may be referred to this program by a driver improvement analyst, city judge, justice of the peace, youth court judge, or judge of a district court of the state.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), the department may issue a restricted probationary license to any person who enrolls and participates in the driver rehabilitation and improvement program. Upon issuance of a probationary license under this section, the licensee is subject to the restrictions set forth on the license.

(b) The department may not issue a restricted probationary license that would permit an individual to drive a commercial motor vehicle during a period in which:

(i) the individual is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle under state or federal law; or

(ii) the individual's driver's license or driving privilege is revoked, suspended, or cancelled.

(10) It is a misdemeanor for a person to operate a motor vehicle in any manner in violation of the restrictions imposed on a restricted license issued to the person under this section.

History: En. 31-192 by Sec. 2, Ch. 526, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-192; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 481, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 64, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 611, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 149, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 445, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

When no penalty specified, 46-18-212.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.
Probationary license, 61-5-206.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.
Habitual traffic offenders, Title 61, ch. 11, part 2.

Part 4
Motorcycle Safety Training Program (Renumbered and Repealed)

61-2-401. Renumbered 20-7-510. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 1991.

61-2-402. Renumbered 20-7-511. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 1991.

61-2-403. Renumbered 20-7-512. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 1991.

61-2-404. Renumbered 20-7-513. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 1991.

61-2-405. Renumbered 20-7-514. Sec. 10, Ch. 701, L. 1991.

61-2-406. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 701, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 324, L. 1989.

Part 5
Emergency Medical Service Providers Grant Program

61-2-501. Legislative findings — purpose. The legislature finds that the provision of prehospital emergency medical service is a critical component of Montana's health care system because these prehospital services can improve the medical outcomes for people suffering medical emergencies and may improve the safety of motorists on Montana roads by providing emergency response to vehicle crashes. The legislature further finds that emergency medical service providers in many of Montana's rural areas have difficulty in continuing their operations because of demographic and economic circumstances. It is the purpose of this part to establish a grant program that will support emergency medical service providers by creating a source of funds to cover the costs of buying and maintaining the equipment that an emergency medical service needs in order to be ready to respond to calls.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2009.

61-2-502. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aircraft" has the meaning provided in 67-1-101. The term includes any fixed-wing airplane or helicopter.

(2) (a) "Ambulance" means a privately or publicly owned motor vehicle or aircraft that is maintained and used for the transportation of patients.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a motor vehicle or aircraft owned by or operated under the direct control of the United States; or

(ii) air transportation services, such as charter or fixed-based operators, that are regulated by the federal aviation administration and that offer no special medical services or provide only transportation to patients or persons at the direction or under the supervision of an independent physician.

(3) "Board" means the Montana state board of medical examiners provided for in 2-15-1731.

(4) "Department" means the department of transportation provided for in 2-15-2501.

(5) "Emergency care provider" means a person licensed by the board, including but not limited to an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic. An emergency care provider with an endorsement may provide community-integrated health care.

(6) "Emergency medical service" means an out-of-hospital treatment service or interfacility emergency medical transportation provided by an ambulance or nontransporting medical unit.

(7) (a) "Emergency response vehicle" means a vehicle used for the dedicated purpose of responding to emergency medical calls.

(b) The term does not include a vehicle used for an individual's personal purposes.

(8) "Nontransporting medical unit" means an aggregate of persons who are organized to respond to a call for emergency medical service and to treat a patient until the arrival of an ambulance. Nontransporting medical units provide any one of varying types and levels of service defined by department of public health and human services rule but may not transport patients.

(9) (a) "Patient" means an individual who is sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

(b) Unless otherwise defined by rule for community-integrated health care, the term does not include an individual who is nonambulatory and who needs transportation assistance solely because that individual is confined to a wheelchair as the individual's usual means of mobility.

(10) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, group of individuals acting together for a common purpose, or organization of any kind, including a governmental agency other than the United States.

(11) "Volunteer emergency care provider" means an individual who is licensed pursuant to Title 50, chapter 6, part 2, and provides out-of-hospital, emergency medical, or community-integrated health care or interfacility transport:

(a) on the days and the times of the day chosen by the individual; and

(b) for an emergency medical service other than:

(i) a private ambulance company, unless the care is provided without compensation and outside of the individual's regular work schedule; or

(ii) a private business or a public agency, as defined in 7-1-4121, that employs the individual on a regular basis with a regular, hourly wage to provide emergency medical or community-integrated health care as part of the individual's job duties.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 437, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

61-2-503. Emergency medical services grant program — eligibility — matching funds. (1) The department shall provide competitive grants to emergency medical service providers for acquiring or leasing ambulances or emergency response vehicles or for purchasing equipment, other than routine medical supplies, for any of the following purposes:

(a) training;

(b) communications; or

(c) providing medical care to a patient.

(2) A licensed emergency medical service may apply for a grant if:

(a) it has been in operation at least 12 months;

(b) it bills for services at a level that is at least equivalent to the medicare billing level; and

(c) a majority of its active emergency care providers are volunteer emergency care providers.

(3) An emergency medical service is ineligible for grant funding if it is either a private business or a public agency, as defined in 7-1-4121, and employs the majority of its emergency care providers on a regular basis with a regular, hourly wage.

(4) An eligible emergency medical service applying for a grant under this section shall provide a 10% match for any grant funds received.

(5) The department shall award grants on an annual basis using the criteria contained in 61-2-504.

(6) Up to 5% of the annual appropriation for the program may be distributed for emergency purposes each year as provided in 61-2-507.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 437, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

61-2-504. Grant review criteria. When evaluating grant applications, the department shall consider the following factors:

(1) demonstrated need;

(2) size of the geographic area covered by the emergency medical service;

(3) distance from other emergency medical service providers in the geographic region;

(4) distance from the closest hospital;

(5) number of calls in the previous calendar year; and

(6) number of volunteer emergency care providers on the active call roster.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 437, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 220, L. 2019.**

61-2-505. Grant awards — appeals. (1) If the department denies an application for a grant, the applicant may appeal the decision in writing to the director of the department.

(2) After considering the emergency medical service provider's appeal and the rules in place for reviewing and awarding grants, the director shall affirm or deny the appeal in writing.

(3) There is no further appeal if the director denies the appeal.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 437, L. 2009.**

61-2-506. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this part.

(2) The rules must include but are not limited to:

(a) the weighting of the criteria listed in 61-2-504 for scoring purposes;

(b) allowable reasons for not awarding a grant;

(c) the appeal process for an emergency medical service provider that does not receive a grant; and

(d) reporting requirements for grant recipients.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 437, L. 2009.**

61-2-507. Emergency grant appropriations. (1) In a documented situation that the department considers to be an emergency for which an eligible emergency medical service provider cannot pay, the department may provide funding to repair or replace a vehicle or equipment that has been damaged or destroyed.

(2) Emergency funding may be provided only for vehicles or equipment eligible for grant funding, as provided in 61-2-503.

(3) Normal replacement of an ambulance or equipment may not be considered an emergency.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 437, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Part 1 — General Provisions

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61-3-103. Filing of security interests — perfection — rights — procedure — fees.
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61-3-106. Report of stolen and recovered motor vehicles — accessibility — insurance fraud and theft reporting — immunity.
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61-3-111. Motor vehicle division administrative fees.
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61-3-207. Repealed.
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61-3-220. Certificate of title — voluntary transfer — duties.
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Chapter Cross-References

Confidential license plates and registrations, Title 44, ch. 4, part 2.

Interstate cooperative agreements for collection of taxes and fees, 60-2-311.

Part 1
General Provisions

61-3-101. Duties of department — records. (1) (a) The department shall create and maintain a central registry of electronic files that includes an electronic record of title as specified in this section for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, travel trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, snowmobiles, and off-highway vehicles for which:

(i) an application for a certificate of title has been received by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer;

(ii) a certificate of title has been issued by the department; or

(iii) a registration, security interest, or lien transaction has been recorded by the department.

(b) The central registry of electronic files described in subsection (1) must include an electronic record of registration for each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, and off-highway vehicle registered in this state:

(i) for which the certificate of title was issued by another jurisdiction and that was registered in another jurisdiction; or

(ii) for which a certificate of title has not been issued or is not required.

(2) The electronic record of title for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle must contain the following information:

(a) the owner's name, Montana residence and, if different, mailing address, and customer identification number;

(b) a description of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, including, as pertinent to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle:

(i) the manufacturer of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle;

(ii) the manufacturer's designation of the style of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle;

(iii) the identifying number;

(iv) the manufacturer's designated model year of manufacture and the odometer reading, if applicable, at the time of the transfer of ownership;

(v) the character of the motive power and the shipping weight of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle as shown by the manufacturer;

(vi) the distinctive license number assigned to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, if any;

(vii) the gross vehicle weight and gross vehicle weight rating, as determined by the manufacturer, or, for a trailer operating interstate, the declared weight;

(viii) the unique transaction record number, when available and assigned by the department, for each transaction pertaining to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle and the date of each transaction;

(ix) any brand required under state law or any brand carried forward from a certificate of title surrendered from another jurisdiction;

(x) if the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle has been or is currently registered in this state, the distinctive license plate number or certificate number assigned to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle and a record of all fees and local option taxes, if applicable, paid for the current and preceding registration periods; and

(xi) other information that may be required for registration or may from time to time be found desirable.

(3) The electronic record of registration for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) the owner's name, Montana residence and, if different, mailing address, and the customer identification number;

(b) the same data that is required under subsection (2)(b) for the electronic record of title; and

(c) any other data considered to be pertinent by the department.

(4) In order to prevent an accumulation of unneeded records and files, regardless of any other statutory requirements, the department may destroy all records and files that relate to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, travel trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, snowmobiles, or off-highway vehicles that have not been registered within the preceding 4 years and that do not have an active lien.

(5) Subject to the provisions of Title 61, chapter 11, part 5, motor vehicle records maintained by the department must be open to inspection during reasonable business hours, and the department shall furnish any information from the records, except personal information and highly restricted personal information, as defined in 61-11-503, upon payment by the applicant of the cost of the information requested. Prior to providing the information, the department shall require the applicant to provide identification. The department may not disclose personal information or highly restricted personal information except as permitted or required under 61-11-507, 61-11-508, or 61-11-509.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1755, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1755, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 62, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 177, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 343, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-101; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 555, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 416, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 180, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Cities and towns — power to license, 7-21-4205.
Registration of collectors' items, 61-3-411.
Monopolies in motor vehicle financing, Title 61, ch. 4, part 4.
Driver's licenses, Title 61, ch. 5.
Accidents on highways — reports, Title 61, ch. 7, part 1.
Weight and size regulations, Title 61, ch. 10.
Motor club service companies, Title 61, ch. 12, part 3.
Motor carriers, Title 69, ch. 12.

61-3-102. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1991.

History: En. 53-122.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 41, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-122.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

61-3-103. Filing of security interests — perfection — rights — procedure — fees. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall, upon payment of the fee required by subsection (8), enter a voluntary security interest or lien against the electronic record of title for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile upon receipt of a written acknowledgment of a voluntary security interest or lien by the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile on a form prescribed by the department.

(b) After the voluntary security interest or lien has been entered on the electronic record of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall issue a transaction summary receipt to the owner and, if requested, to the secured party or lienholder, showing the date that the security interest or lien was perfected.

(c) A voluntary security interest or lien is perfected on the date that the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer receives the written acknowledgment of the voluntary security interest or lien from the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (3), when a person applying for a certificate of title requests issuance of a certificate of title under 61-3-201, the department shall record the voluntary security interest or lien on the face of a certificate of title.

(2) A security interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile held as inventory by a dealer licensed under Title 23, chapter 2, part 5, 6, or 8, or chapter 4 of this title must be perfected in accordance with Title 30, chapter 9A.

(3) Whenever a security interest or lien is filed against the electronic record of title for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile that is subject to two security interests previously perfected under this section and the applicant has requested issuance of a certificate of title under 61-3-201, the department shall endorse on the face of the certificate of title, "NOTICE. This vehicle is subject to additional security interests on file with the Department of Justice." Other information regarding the additional security interests is not required to be endorsed on the certificate.

(4) Upon default under a chattel mortgage or conditional sales contract covering a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, the mortgagee or vendor has the same remedies as in the case of other personal property. In case of attachment of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, or snowmobiles, all the provisions of 27-18-413, 27-18-414, and 27-18-804 are applicable except that deposits must be made with the department.

(5) A secured party or lienholder who has a perfected security interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile and who fails to file a satisfaction of the security interest or lien within 21 days after receiving final payment is required to pay the department $25 for each day that the secured party or lienholder fails to file the satisfaction.

(6) Within 24 hours after receiving notice of any involuntary liens or attachments against the record of any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile registered in this state, the department shall mail to the owner or any secured party or lienholder of record a notice showing the name and address of the lien claimant, the amount of the lien, the date of execution of the lien, and, in the case of attachment, the full title of the court and the action and the names of the attorneys for the plaintiff and attaching creditor.

(7) (a) This section does not prevent a secured party or lienholder from assigning the secured party's or lienholder's interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, for which a certificate of title is issued under this chapter, to any other person without the consent of and without affecting the interest of the holder of the certificate of title.

(b) If a secured party assigns all or part of the party's interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile for which a certificate of title is issued under this chapter, the secured party assigning the interest shall file a copy of the assignment with the department and the department shall record the assignment in the department's records.

(8) (a) A fee must be paid to the department to file any security interest or other lien against a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile. The fee covers the cost of entering and, upon the subsequent satisfaction or release, of removing the security interest or lien from the electronic record of title.

(b) The fee to file a lien is $8. Of the $8 fee, $4 must be deposited in the state general fund in accordance with 15-1-504. The remaining $4 must be forwarded to the state for deposit in the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550.

(9) (a) Until June 30, 2034, a fee of $10 must be paid to the department by a vehicle owner if, following satisfaction or release of a security interest and its removal from the department's records, the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile owner requests issuance of a new certificate of title without the security interest or lien shown on the face of the title. Beginning July 1, 2034, the fee for a new certificate of title under this subsection is $5.

(b) Until June 30, 2034, the fee must be deposited in the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2034, the $5 fee must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: **En. Subd. 4, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 11-143, Ch. 264, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 121, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-110; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 189, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 482, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 90, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 394, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 44, 83(1)(b), Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 562, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 50, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 566, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Boats — certificate of title — filing of security interests, 23-2-508.
Snowmobiles — certificate of title — filing of security interests, 23-2-611.
Off-highway vehicle — nonresident temporary-use permits, 23-2-814.
U.C.C. — filing security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A, part 5.
Retail installment sales, Title 31, ch. 1, part 2.
Certificate of title — issuance, 61-3-202.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.

61-3-104. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 53-111; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 502, L. 1979.**

61-3-105. Repealed. Sec. 81, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 166, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 1746.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1110; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 421, L. 1979.**

61-3-106. Report of stolen and recovered motor vehicles — accessibility — insurance fraud and theft reporting — immunity. (1) It is the duty of the sheriff of each county of the state and of the chief of police or commissioner of police of each city to make an immediate entry regarding each theft or recovery of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile into the state automated stolen motor vehicle file maintained by the department on the state's criminal justice information system. Failure on the part of any officer to make the immediate entry is considered malfeasance in office and constitutes grounds for removal. Upon entry of the information, the state's criminal justice information system and the national crime information center must be allowed immediate access to the state automated stolen motor vehicle file. The department shall file reports of stolen and recovered motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, or snowmobiles reported to it from other states.

(2) The state automated stolen motor vehicle file must be made available to the secretary of state or other proper official in each state of the United States through access to the national crime information center.

(3) Upon written request to an insurer by an authorized governmental agency or upon an insurer's own initiative to notify a specific lienholder, an insurer or an agent authorized by an insurer to act on its behalf shall release to the requesting agency or lienholder relevant information in the insurer's possession relating to any specific motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud.

(4) (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, information furnished pursuant to this section is privileged and may not become part of a public record. The evidence or information is not subject to a subpoena duces tecum in a civil or criminal proceeding unless the court determines after reasonable notice to the parties listed in subsection (4)(b) and a hearing that the public interest and any ongoing investigation by the parties listed in subsection (4)(b) will not be jeopardized by compliance with the subpoena duces tecum.

(b) The notice required by subsection (4)(a) must be sent to an insurer, an agent authorized by an insurer to act on its behalf, an authorized governmental agency that has an interest in the information, and a specific lienholder.

(5) An authorized governmental agency provided with information pursuant to this section may release or provide the information to any other authorized governmental agency.

(6) An insurer, an agent authorized by an insurer to act on its behalf, or an employee of an insurer or agent is not subject to civil or criminal liability in any cause of action for releasing or receiving information under this section.

(7) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Authorized governmental agency" means:

(i) any constituted criminal investigative department or agency of the United States;

(ii) the state department of justice;

(iii) the state auditor's office;

(iv) a peace officer of the state or a political subdivision of the state; or

(v) a prosecuting attorney of any state, of any political subdivision of any state, or of the United States or any district of the United States.

(b) "Relevant information" includes but is not limited to:

(i) insurance policy information related to any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud under investigation, including an application for a policy;

(ii) available policy premium payment records;

(iii) the history of previous claims made by the insured; and

(iv) information relating to the investigation of any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud, including statements of any person, proof of loss and notice of loss, and any information that an insurer knows or reasonably believes reveals or may reveal the identity of a person who it has reason to believe committed a criminal or fraudulent act relating to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile theft or motor vehicle insurance claim or has knowledge of an act that has not been reported to an authorized governmental agency.

(c) "Specific lienholder" means a person or firm that holds a security interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile involved in a specific motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 113, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1763.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 53-137; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of Secretary of State, 2-15-401.
Duties of Sheriff, 7-32-2121.
Misconduct of Undersheriff, 7-32-2129.
Duties of Chief of Police, 7-32-4105.
Role of Police Commission in hearing and deciding charges against police officers, 7-32-4155.
Theft, 45-6-301.
Unauthorized use of motor vehicles, 45-6-308.

61-3-107. Identification number for trailers, campers, and other motor vehicles. (1) A trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or camper that does not have a manufacturer's or other identifying number on the trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or camper must be assigned an identification number by the department.

(2) The department may not issue a certificate of title or reissue a certificate of title covering a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile on which the identification number has been altered, removed, obliterated, defaced, omitted, or is otherwise absent unless the owner or other person lawfully in possession of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile files an application with the department, accompanied by a fee of $5. The application must be on a form provided by the department and must contain information required by the department for the assignment of a special identification number for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile. Upon receipt of the application and if the department is satisfied that the applicant is entitled to the assignment of an identification number, the department shall designate a special identification number for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile. The department shall note the special identification number on the application and on records to be kept by the department. This assigned identification number must be stamped or securely attached in a conspicuous position on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile in the manner and form prescribed by the department.

(3) If the true identity of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile can be established by restoring the original manufacturer's serial number or other distinguishing numbers or identification marks, the department may not assign a special identification number and shall replace the motor vehicle's, trailer's, semitrailer's, pole trailer's, camper's, motorboat's, personal watercraft's, sailboat's, or snowmobile's identification mark by duplicating the manufacturer's full numeric or alphanumeric identification sequence. The department may replace an identification mark only after conducting an inquiry to determine that ownership of the motor vehicle bearing a restored identification mark has been lawfully transferred to the applicant. The applicant shall apply for and the department shall replace the identification mark on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile as required under subsection (2).

(4) Upon receipt by the department of a certificate of inspection completed by a peace officer or authorized member of the department verifying that the identification number has been stamped or securely attached in a conspicuous position upon the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, accompanied by an application for a certificate of title and the required fee, the department shall use the number as the numeric or alphanumeric identification mark for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile in any certificate of title that may be issued.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-107(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 272, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Retail installment sales — manufactured structure defined, 31-1-202.

61-3-108. Disposition of fees. All fees payable to the department under this title, unless otherwise provided, shall be deposited in the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 421, L. 1979; En. Sec. 3, Ch. 654, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 398, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Criminal Justice Information Network, Title 44, ch. 2, part 3.
Montana Forensic Science System Act, Title 44, ch. 3.
Law Enforcement Academy, Title 44, ch. 10.
Department defined, 61-1-101.

61-3-109. Electronic title, lien filing, and registration. (1) The department shall develop and implement a pilot program to allow:

(a) electronic transmission of data by an authorized agent, a county treasurer, or a person to or from the department in lieu of the transmission of paper documents;

(b) substantiation of electronic record transactions performed by the department, an authorized agent, a county treasurer, or a person;

(c) the production and certification by a court or an authorized agent of a motor vehicle record generated from electronic records of title and registration maintained by the department;

(d) electronic filing, perfection, and release of security interests or liens of record;

(e) certification and audit by the department of its authorized agents; and

(f) expedited title services for customers with exceptional needs who are willing to pay an optional fee prescribed by the department by rule.

(2) Money collected from the fee imposed under subsection (1)(f) must be deposited in the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 566, L. 2021.

61-3-110. Contract rental price adjustment — not sale or security interest. In the case of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, a transaction does not create a sale or security interest solely because it permits or requires that the rental price be adjusted either upward or downward under the agreement by reference to the amount realized upon the sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile. To the extent that a conflict exists, this section supersedes any other provision of law.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-111. Motor vehicle division administrative fees. The motor vehicle division of the department shall charge, impose, and collect a 3% administrative fee on all fees and donations charged under 23-2-809, 23-2-617, and this title to be deposited into the motor vehicle division administration account established in 61-3-112.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 2019.

61-3-112. Motor vehicle division administration state special revenue account. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 to be known as the motor vehicle division administration account.

(2) Administrative fees collected on behalf of the motor vehicle division pursuant to 61-3-111 must be deposited in the account.

(3) Fees collected pursuant to 61-3-321(2) and (7) are deposited in this account.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

61-3-113 and 61-3-114 reserved.

61-3-115. Customer service accounts — electronic updates or changes to motor vehicle, driver, or dealer licensing records. (1) The department may provide secure electronic applications to permit a person, for specific purposes and as determined by the department, to access or update:

(a) an electronic record of title or registration for any vehicle registered to that person;

(b) an electronic individual Montana driving record for that person; or

(c) an electronic record pertaining to a license issued by the department under chapter 4 of this title.

(2) Purposes for which a person may access or update an electronic record of title or registration for a vehicle registered to or acquired by the person may include but are not limited to:

(a) issuing a temporary registration permit for a newly acquired vehicle;

(b) renewing vehicle registration on an annual or periodic basis;

(c) updating or changing personal information, including residence or mailing addresses; and

(d) changing the anniversary date and registration period for a vehicle registered to the person.

(3) Purposes for which a person may access or update an electronic individual Montana driving record for that person may include but are not limited to the following:

(a) updating or changing personal information, including residence or mailing addresses;

(b) obtaining a copy of the person's individual Montana driving record;

(c) paying a reinstatement fee owed to the department; and

(d) applying for a replacement driver's license.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-3-116. Services that may be performed by authorized agent. (1) The department may authorize a person to perform, on the department's behalf, specific motor vehicle titling, registration, or driver licensing functions assigned to or administered by the department under this title. The authorization must be evidenced by an authorized agent agreement.

(2) An authorized agent must meet all of the requirements established by the department.

(3) An authorized agent shall, within the time period prescribed in the authorized agent agreement, submit to the department or its designee all statutorily prescribed fees, taxes, or penalties the authorized agent collects.

(4) (a) Except when specifically prohibited by statute or the authorized agent agreement, in addition to statutorily prescribed fees, taxes, and penalties, an authorized agent may collect and retain a reasonable convenience fee for services provided.

(b) If an authorized agent is a municipal or county officer, the convenience fee may be charged and collected as permitted under 7-5-2133 or 7-5-4125.

(5) The department may provide an automated mechanism to ensure that any statutorily prescribed fee, tax, or penalty collected by an authorized agent or a county treasurer in a county other than the county where the owner of the vehicle is domiciled is transferred to the county treasurer of the county where the owner of a vehicle is domiciled.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-117. Payment of fees by credit card or other commercially acceptable means. (1) The department may accept payment of any fee, tax, or penalty that the department administers by credit card, debit card, electronic funds transfer, or other commercially acceptable means.

(2) (a) If the payment is made by credit card, debit card, charge card, or similar method, the liability is not discharged and the person has not paid the tax, fee, or penalty until the department, its authorized agent, or the county treasurer receives payment or credit from the financial institution or credit card company responsible for making the payment or credit and as long as the payment or credit is not subsequently charged back to the state by the financial institution or credit card company. Upon receipt of the payment or credit, the amount is considered paid on the date on which the charge was made by the person unless the payment or credit is subsequently charged back to the department, its authorized agent, or the county treasurer by the financial institution or credit card company.

(b) Upon notice of nonpayment, the department may charge the person who attempted the payment of the fee, tax, or penalty an additional fee not to exceed the costs of processing the claim for payment of the fee, tax, or penalty. The amount of the additional fee must be added to the fee, tax, or penalty due and must be collected in the same manner as the fee, tax, or penalty due.

(3) A person making a payment pursuant to this section shall pay any fee required by a financial institution or credit card company for the payment method used.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-118. Motor vehicle electronic commerce operating account. (1) There is a motor vehicle electronic commerce operating account of the enterprise fund type as provided in 17-2-102.

(2) A portion of the fees imposed for issuance of a temporary registration permit under 61-3-224 must be deposited in the account.

(3) The money in the motor vehicle electronic commerce operating account must be used by the department to pay costs directly incurred in the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of electronic commerce applications, including but not limited to payments to third-party vendors who provide services to support the applications.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 384, L. 2017.

61-3-119. Address of record — basis for change — acknowledgment of current address and service — national change of address program. (1) (a) Whenever a person completes and submits a department-prescribed form, application, or similar document to the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer under Title 23 or this title or whenever a person is issued a notice to appear for a violation of a statute or a municipal ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, the person shall provide the person's current address on the form, application, or similar document or to the peace officer issuing the notice to appear.

(b) By manually or digitally signing the prescribed form, application, or similar document authorizing the electronic submission of the document to the department or providing the information to a peace officer, the person acknowledges that:

(i) the address is correct;

(ii) subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(b), any official notice from the department, including an order of suspension or revocation or mail renewal notice, must be sent by prepaid first-class mail to the most recent address on:

(A) the signed form, application, or similar document; or

(B) if a conviction or bond forfeiture resulting from the notice to appear that was issued, the notice to appear; and

(iii) subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(b), the notice from the department must be considered to have been accepted by the person at that address.

(2) (a) The department may contract with the United States postal service or an authorized agent to use the national change of address system for the purpose of obtaining current address information for a person whose name appears in a motor vehicle or driver record maintained by the department.

(b) If the department receives information from the national change of address system that indicates that a person whose name appears in a record has moved to another address, the department may update its records to include the new address and, after that date or until the person notifies the department, use the new address to correspond with or notify the person by first-class mail.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Part 2
Certificates of Title

61-3-201. Certificate of title required — nonresident title — exclusions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile that is in this state and for which a certificate of title has not been issued by or an electronic record of title has not been created by the department shall apply to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer for a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile.

(2) The department may determine requirements for nonresident businesses to apply for a title in this state and the department:

(a) may produce a title for nonresident business applicants;

(b) may enter a voluntary security interest or lien on the title in accordance with 61-3-103;

(c) is authorized to establish an application fee and title fee for nonresident applicants;

(d) shall require an applicant to submit a penalty bond of no less than $250,000 payable to the motor vehicle division, conditioned that the applicant will not commit fraud against any purchaser, seller, financial institution, the state, or any other state by using this section.

(3) The following motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, or snowmobiles are exempt from the requirements of this part:

(a) a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile owned by the United States, unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile is registered in this state;

(b) except as required in 61-4-111, a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile that is:

(i) owned by a manufacturer, a dealer, a wholesaler, or an auto auction; and

(ii) held for sale, even though incidentally moved on the highway, used for purposes of testing or demonstration, or used solely by a manufacturer for testing;

(c) a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile owned by a nonresident or a nonresident who has an interest in real property in Montana who chooses not to register a motor vehicle in this state as provided in 61-3-303;

(d) a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile regularly engaged in the interstate transportation of persons or property and:

(i) for which a currently effective certificate of title has been issued in another state or jurisdiction; or

(ii) that is properly registered under the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 7;

(e) a vehicle moved solely by human or animal power;

(f) an implement of husbandry;

(g) special mobile equipment or a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land;

(h) a self-propelled wheelchair or tricycle used by a person with a disability;

(i) a dolly or converter gear;

(j) a mobile home or housetrailer;

(k) a manufactured home declared to be an improvement to real property under 15-1-116; or

(l) a golf cart unless it is operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license.

History: (1) thru (6)En. Subd. 3, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 1977; Sec. 53-109, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. Subd. 2, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 74, L. 1975; Sec. 53-108, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-108(part), 53-109; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 363, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 522, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 522, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Notaries public, Title 1, ch. 5, part 6.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
U.C.C. — security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Intestacy, wills, and donative transfers, Title 72, ch. 2.

61-3-202. Certificate of title — issuance — contents — joint ownership. (1) A certificate of title issued by the department must contain:

(a) the date issued;

(b) the name and address of the owner;

(c) the mileage disclosed by the transferor when ownership of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile was transferred, including a notation that the record mileage is actual, not actual, or exceeds mechanical limits;

(d) the name and address of each secured party and lienholder, in the order of priority and perfection or, if the application was based on a surrendered certificate of title, in the order that the names and addresses are shown on the certificate of title;

(e) the title number assigned to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile;

(f) the name of the jurisdiction in which the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile owner resides, the words "certificate of title", the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile identification number, the manufacturer's designated model year of manufacture, make, and model of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, and any required or carried-forward brands;

(g) the unique transaction record number, if available and assigned by the department; and

(h) any other data that the department prescribes.

(2) A certificate of title issued by the department is valid until cancelled by the department upon:

(a) a transfer, in the electronic record, of title of any ownership interest shown in the certificate of title;

(b) notice received by the department of the surrender of the certificate of title to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile to a title-issuing agency of another jurisdiction for an issuance of a title in that jurisdiction;

(c) the issuance of a duplicate certificate of title; or

(d) a determination by the department that the certificate of title contains a substantial error or that the person who requested issuance of the certificate of title paid the required fees and taxes with an insufficient funds check.

(3) (a) Whenever the conditions described in subsection (2)(d) occur, the department shall:

(i) give prompt written notice of the cancellation of the certificate of title to any owner, secured party, or lienholder of record; and

(ii) stop any change to the electronic record of title.

(b) The action taken by the department under subsection (3)(a) prevents the transfer of any ownership interest until the error is corrected or the fees and taxes have been paid.

(4) If the names and addresses of more than one owner are listed on the certificate of title, joint ownership with right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common and not as transfer on death, is presumed.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-107(part); amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 502, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 130, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

U.C.C. — security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.

Obscuring identity of machine, 45-6-326.

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

61-3-203. Fee for original certificate of title — disposition. (1) Until June 30, 2028, a person applying for a certificate of title shall pay the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer a fee of:

(a) $10 if the vehicle for which a certificate of title is sought is not a light vehicle or a truck or bus that weighs 1 ton or less; or

(b) $12 if the vehicle for which application is made is a light vehicle or a truck or bus that weighs 1 ton or less.

(2) The amount of $5 of the fee imposed pursuant to subsection (1) must be forwarded to the department for deposit in the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550, and the remaining amount must be deposited in the state general fund.

(3) For expedited certificates of title, which may be issued only by the Montana motor vehicle division, the entirety of the fee imposed pursuant to subsection (1) must be deposited into the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2028, the fee imposed in subsection (1)(a) is $5 and the fee imposed in subsection (1)(b) is $7 and all fees paid pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-112; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 535, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 162, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 51, 83(1)(c), Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 50, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 398, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 566, L. 2021.

Cross-References
Fees of County Treasurer, 7-6-2131.
City and county road funds, 7-14-2512.

61-3-204. Replacement certificate of title — application. (1) (a) If a certificate of title is lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated, or becomes illegible or if the owner wants to update personal information on the electronic record of title or have a replacement certificate of title issued with updated information, the owner, as shown on the electronic record of title, may apply for and request the department to issue a replacement certificate of title. The application must include satisfactory evidence of the facts requiring the replacement certificate of title and be accompanied by a fee of $10.

(b) The amount of $5 of the fee must be deposited in the state general fund in accordance with 15-1-504, and the remaining $5 must be deposited in the motor vehicle information technology system account provided for in 61-3-550.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2026, the fee for a replacement certificate of title is $5 and the entire fee must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) Each replacement certificate of title issued by the department must contain the following statement: "This replacement voids any previously issued title."

History: En. Subd. 6, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-113(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Secs. 52, 83(1)(d), Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 562, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 50, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 398, L. 2015.

Cross-References
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-3-205. Transfer of ownership of vehicles by insurance company. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), an insurance company or its adjuster that has taken possession of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile as a result of settling an insurance claim and that transfers ownership of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile shall deliver an assigned certificate of title by the registered owner or owners to the transferee at the time of transfer.

(b) If the certificate of title names one or more holders of a perfected security interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, the insurance company or its adjuster shall also secure and deliver to the transferee a release from the secured party of the security interest.

(2) (a) The registered owner or owners may use an electronic signature pursuant to Title 30, chapter 18, part 1, on the certificate of title or on a limited power of attorney to assign ownership of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile. The department may prescribe the form of the limited power of attorney to be used for this purpose. A power of attorney executed under authority of this subsection (2)(a) does not require notarization.

(b) A secured party may release a perfected security interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile under this section by electronic signature pursuant to Title 30, chapter 18, part 1.

(3) The department may adopt rules for the transfer of vehicles in this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 363, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 2019.

Cross-References
U.C.C. — security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

61-3-206. Odometer disclosure requirements on transfer of vehicle — dealer to preserve record. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), before executing any transfer of ownership document relating to a motor vehicle, each seller of a motor vehicle shall record on the certificate of title the odometer reading at the time of transfer or, if the certificate of title does not provide for the recording of the odometer reading, furnish to the purchaser a written statement, to be signed by the seller, that contains the following information:

(a) the odometer reading at the time of transfer;

(b) the date of transfer;
(c) the seller's name and current address;
(d) the purchaser's name and current address;
(e) the motor vehicle year, make, model, body style, and identification number;
(f) one of the following statements or certification:

(i) a certification by the seller that, to the best of the seller's knowledge, the odometer reading reflects the actual miles or kilometers the vehicle has been driven;

(ii) if the seller knows that the odometer reading reflects the amount of mileage in excess of the designed mechanical odometer limit of 99,999 miles or kilometers, the seller shall include a statement to that effect; or

(iii) if the seller knows that the odometer reading differs from the number of miles or kilometers the motor vehicle has actually traveled and that the difference is greater than that caused by odometer calibration error, the seller shall include a statement that the odometer reading is not the actual mileage and should not be relied upon.

(2) The purchaser shall acknowledge receipt of the disclosure statement by signing it.

(3) For the purposes of this section, an odometer disclosure statement may be executed in electronic form and used with an electronic signature pursuant to Title 30, chapter 18, part 1.

(4) The seller of the following types of motor vehicles need not disclose the odometer reading of the vehicle as required in subsection (1):

(a) a motor vehicle with a 2010 model year or earlier;
(b) a motor vehicle with a 2011 model year or later that is 20 years old or older;
(c) a vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, or sailboat that is not self-propelled;
(d) a new motor vehicle transferred between dealers or wholesalers prior to its first retail sale, unless the motor vehicle has been used as a demonstrator;
(e) a motor vehicle having a gross weight rating of more than 16,000 pounds; or
(f) a motor vehicle sold directly by the manufacturer to an agency of the United States.

(5) A dealer, an auto auction, or a wholesaler licensed under chapter 4 of this title shall create a record of the information required in subsection (1) and shall maintain and preserve that record for at least 5 years after the date of sale of the motor vehicle to which the information pertains.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 324, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Transfer of interest in motor vehicle, 61-3-201.
Tampering with odometer of motor vehicle — misdemeanor, 61-3-607.

61-3-207. Repealed. Sec. 125, Ch. 596, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 200, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-3-208. Affidavit and bond for certificate of title. (1) If an applicant for a certificate of title cannot provide the department with the certificate of title that assigns the prior owner's interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile to the applicant, the department may issue a certificate of title if subsection (2) is complied with.

(2) (a) The applicant shall submit an affidavit in a form prescribed by the department that must be signed and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths and affirmations. The affidavit must accompany the application for the certificate of title and must:

(i) include the facts and circumstances through which the applicant acquired ownership and possession of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile;

(ii) disclose security interests, liens, or encumbrances that are known to the applicant and that are outstanding against the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile;

(iii) state that the applicant has the right to have a certificate of title issued.

(b) The application must satisfy one of the following conditions:

(i) The vehicle for which the application is being made must be a camper, off-highway vehicle, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat 12 feet in length or longer, or snowmobile, and the loss of the certificate of title must be established by the applicant to the department's satisfaction.

(ii) If application is being made for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is 30 years old or older or with a value of $1,000 or less, the applicant shall establish the loss of the certificate of title to the department's satisfaction and either provide evidence of the value of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer based on the vehicle condition as determined by the applicable national appraisal guide for the vehicle as of January 1 for the year in which the application is made or, if a national appraisal guide is not available for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, the applicant shall certify the value of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer by providing the bill of sale and a notarized document from the applicant attesting to the value.

(iii) If application is being made for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is less than 30 years old with a value that exceeds $1,000, the applicant shall provide a bond, in a form prescribed by the department, issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, in an amount equal to the value of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for which the application is being made as determined by the applicant, based on the vehicle condition as determined by the applicable national appraisal guide for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as of January 1 for the year in which the application is made or, if a national appraisal guide is not available for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, the applicant shall certify the value of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer by providing the bill of sale and a notarized document from the applicant attesting to the value. The bond is conditioned to indemnify a prior owner, lienholder, subsequent purchaser, secured creditor, or encumbrancer of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and any respective successors in interest against expenses, losses, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, caused by the issuance of the certificate of title or by a defect in or undisclosed security interest upon the right, title, and interest of the applicant in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(iv) If the application is being made for a motor vehicle sold without a manufacturer's certificate of origin, the applicant shall:

(A) purchase and install all equipment required for the motor vehicle pursuant to Title 61, chapter 9, part 2;

(B) obtain an inspection by a law enforcement agent to verify that all required equipment is present and operational;

(C) provide a bond, in a form prescribed by the department, issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, in an amount equal to the full retail price of the motor vehicle for which the application is being made. The bond is conditioned to indemnify a prior owner, lienholder, subsequent purchaser, secured creditor, or encumbrancer of the motor vehicle and any respective successors in interest against expenses, losses, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, caused by the issuance of the certificate of title or by a defect in or undisclosed security interest upon the right, title, and interest of the applicant in the motor vehicle.

(3) Any interested person has a right of action to recover on the bond furnished under this section for a breach of its conditions, but the aggregate liability of the surety to all persons may not exceed the amount of the bond.

(4) Unless the department has been notified of a pending action to recover the bond furnished under this section, the department shall return the bond at the earlier of:

(a) 3 years from the date of issuance of the certificate of title; or

(b) the date of surrender of the valid certificate of title to the department if the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile is no longer required to have a certificate of title in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 578, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 482, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 52, 243, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

U.C.C. — security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.

61-3-209. Repealed. Sec. 125, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 200, L. 1997.

61-3-210. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Cab" means the passenger compartment of a truck or pickup truck. It is a unit of construction that includes the top or roof and the cowl and may or may not include glass, instrumentation, the steering column, and a seat or seats.

(2) "Center structure" includes the section of either a unibody or frame-type passenger motor vehicle that consists of a unit of sheet metal that extends from the firewall to the back of the rear seat or the centerline of the rear wheels. The structure may comprise the roof, side and rear window posts, cowl panel, dash panel, floor pans, doors, and rocker panels if two or more of these parts are assembled together as one unit.

(3) "Component part" means the front-end assembly, center structure, or tail section of an automobile, the cab of a truck, the bed of a 1-ton or lighter truck, the frame of a motor vehicle, or any part of a motor vehicle that contains a vehicle identification number or a derivative of a vehicle identification number.

(4) "Frame" means the structure that supports the automobile body and other external component parts.

(5) "Front-end assembly" includes the hood, right front and left front fenders, grill, bumper, and radiator supports if two or more of these parts are assembled together as one unit forward of the firewall.

(6) "Salvage certificate" means a certificate of title issued by the department for a salvage vehicle that may be used to retitle the motor vehicle.

(7) "Salvage vehicle" means a motor vehicle damaged by collision, fire, flood, accident, trespass, or other occurrence to the extent that the owner, an insurer, or another person acting on behalf of the owner determines that the cost of parts and labor makes it uneconomical to repair the vehicle.

(8) "Salvage vehicle purchaser" means a person, other than an insurer, who purchases or otherwise obtains possession of a salvage vehicle.

(9) "Tail section" includes the floor pan, right rear and left rear quarter panels, deck lid, upper rear and lower rear panels, and rear bumper if two or more of these parts are assembled together as one unit.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-211. Surrender of certificate of title — issuance of salvage certificate — salvage retitling requirements — insurer or owner unable to supply title to auto auction dealer. (1) When an insurer acquires ownership of a motor vehicle that is less than 15 years old and that has been determined to be a salvage vehicle, the insurer shall apply for a salvage certificate on a form prescribed by the department. The application must be accompanied by a certificate of title assigned to the insurer unless the application indicates that the insurer was unable to obtain the certificate of title after making at least two attempts to do so following oral or written acceptance by the owner of the salvage vehicle of the settlement offer for the salvage vehicle. If the certificate of title or electronic record of title maintained by the department names one or more holders of a perfected security interest in the motor vehicle, the insurer shall secure and deliver to the department or an authorized agent a release from each secured party of the secured interest.

(2) The department shall issue a salvage certificate to the insurer within 5 working days of the date of receipt of the application. Upon receipt of a salvage certificate issued by the department, an insurer may possess, retain, transport, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the salvage vehicle. The salvage certificate is prima facie evidence of ownership of a salvage vehicle.

(3) If the insurer elects to sell a salvage vehicle before a salvage certificate is obtained under subsections (1) and (2), the insurer shall complete a salvage receipt on a form prescribed by the department. The insurer shall deliver the original salvage receipt to the salvage vehicle purchaser only after a release has been obtained from each secured party of any security interest in the salvage vehicle. The insurer shall then deliver to the department or an authorized agent

a copy of the salvage receipt, any security releases, and a certificate of title assigned to the insurer unless the insurer was unable to obtain the certificate of title after making at least two attempts to do so following oral or written acceptance by the owner of the salvage vehicle of the settlement offer for the salvage vehicle. Upon submission of the original salvage receipt by the salvage vehicle purchaser, the department shall issue a salvage certificate to the salvage vehicle purchaser that is prima facie evidence of ownership. A salvage certificate must be obtained before the salvage vehicle purchaser disposes of the salvage vehicle.

(4) If an insurer determines that a salvage vehicle will remain with the owner after an agreed settlement, the insurer shall notify the department or an authorized agent of the settlement on a form prescribed by the department. Upon receipt of the notice, the department may require the owner to surrender the certificate of title in compliance with this part, regardless of whether ownership of the salvage vehicle was obtained in a jurisdiction not requiring the surrender of the certificate of title or a comparable ownership document.

(5) At the time of surrender of a certificate of title for a salvage vehicle not acquired by an insurer, the department shall issue a salvage certificate to the owner. Upon receipt of a salvage certificate issued by the department to a noninsurer, the owner may possess, retain, transport, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the salvage vehicle. A salvage certificate is prima facie evidence of ownership of a salvage vehicle.

(6) A fee of $5 must be paid to the department for the issuance of a salvage certificate.

(7) A salvage vehicle owned by or in the inventory of a motor vehicle wrecking facility on October 1, 1991, is exempt from the provisions of this section if the owner of the facility has complied with the provisions of 61-3-225.

(8) (a) When an auto auction dealer is in possession of a salvage vehicle that was subject to an insurance claim and the insurer did not obtain a salvage certificate or certificate of title as a result of the insurance claim, the insurer shall provide a claim release statement to the auto auction dealer.

(b) Upon receiving a claim release statement from an insurer, the auto auction dealer shall send notice to the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle. The notice shall inform the owner and any lienholder of outstanding charges owed to the auto auction and the requirement to pay applicable charges and pick up the vehicle within 30 days after the date of the notice. Notice under this subsection (8) must be sent by certified mail to the owner and lienholder address on record with the department.

(c) The owner, lienholder, or insurance provider of the vehicle may not reclaim the vehicle until the owner, the lienholder, or the owner's or lienholder's insurance provider has paid the costs incurred by the auto auction dealer in removing and storing the vehicle.

(d) If the removal and storage costs are not paid within 30 days after the notice in subsection (8)(b) was postmarked, the auto auction dealer may, on a form prescribed by the department, request that a salvage certificate or certificate of title be issued. The request must certify that the notice required in subsection (8)(b) was sent and that the owner or lienholder has not made payment as required in subsection(8)(b).

(e) Upon receipt of a valid request as provided in subsection (8)(d), the department shall cancel the vehicle's certificate to title, remove any perfected security interest, and issue to the auto auction dealer a salvage certificate for vehicles less than 15 years old or a certificate of title for vehicles 15 years old or older. After the department has issued a salvage certificate or certificate of title under this section, the former owner or lienholder or insurance provider has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle recycling and disposal, Title 75, ch. 10. part 5.

61-3-212. Retitling salvage vehicles — penalty. (1) Prior to operating a salvage vehicle on the roads and highways of this state, the owner shall present the motor vehicle and the salvage certificate, if one has been issued, or the certificate of title, the appropriate receipts or bills of sale establishing ownership, and the source of component parts used to rebuild the motor vehicle to a department employee or designated peace officer for inspection, as provided in

61-3-223. An owner may obtain a temporary registration permit under 61-3-224 for the purpose of moving a salvage vehicle to and from the designated inspection site.

(2) (a) The inspector shall inspect the motor vehicle to verify the identity of the motor vehicle.

(b) The inspector shall verify that the component parts used to rebuild the motor vehicle are evidenced by traceable receipts or bills of sale and that there are no indications that the motor vehicle or any of its parts are stolen. Documentation provided by the owner or employee of a wrecking facility licensed under the provisions of Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, is prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the documentation.

(3) Following inspection and prior to operating the motor vehicle on the roads and highways of this state, the owner shall apply for a new certificate of title by submitting the application, the salvage certificate, receipts or bills of sale, and a copy of the inspection report to the department.

(4) Upon receipt of the application, required documentation, and payment of the fee required in 61-3-203, the department shall issue a new certificate of title with the words "rebuilt salvage" on the face of the certificate of title.

(5) A person failing to comply with the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $500. The salvage vehicle purchaser shall produce the salvage certificate upon request of a public official legally entitled to request the certificate. A person may not operate or use a salvage vehicle on the roads or highways of this state except when a temporary registration permit has been issued as provided in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-213. Certificate of title — custom vehicle, street rod, kit vehicle, or specially constructed vehicle. (1) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a custom vehicle or street rod and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must provide:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture of the body of the vehicle that the custom vehicle or street rod resembles as the model year and year of manufacture for the custom vehicle or street rod;

(b) a vehicle description of the custom vehicle or street rod if the vehicle is a custom vehicle built to resemble a vehicle manufactured after 1948 and at least 25 years before the current calendar year or a street rod built to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and

(c) if there is no manufacturer's certificate of origin for the custom vehicle or street rod, the vehicle identification number from the chassis or frame of the custom vehicle or street rod or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(2) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a kit vehicle, excluding a kit vehicle that qualifies as a custom vehicle or street rod, and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must list:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture as contained on the manufacturer's certificate of origin for the kit vehicle or, if a manufacturer's certificate of origin does not exist, the calendar year in which application for title was made;

(b) a vehicle description of the kit vehicle; and

(c) in the absence of a manufacturer's certificate of origin for the kit vehicle, the vehicle identification number from the chassis or frame of the donor vehicle or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(3) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a specially constructed vehicle and a certificate of title is issued or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must list:

(a) the model year and year of manufacture as the calendar year in which application for title was made;

(b) a vehicle description, as determined by the department, of the assembled or custom-built vehicle; and

(c) the vehicle identification number, if any, from the chassis or frame of the vehicle or a state-assigned vehicle identification number.

(4) Prior to assignment of a state-assigned vehicle identification number or to confirm a vehicle identification number from the chassis or frame of a custom vehicle, street rod, or specially constructed vehicle, the department may require a vehicle inspection.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 458, L. 2005.**

61-3-214. Certificate of title — custom-built motorcycle. (1) When a person applies for a certificate of title for a custom-built motorcycle and a certificate of title or an electronic record of title is created pursuant to this chapter, the certificate of title or electronic record of title must include:

(a) the make, style, year of manufacture, serial number or identification number of the motorcycle's engine, and year of manufacture for the motorcycle, which is the year that the engine was manufactured or the year that the engine was manufactured to resemble; and

(b) the make and vehicle identification number for the frame of the motorcycle.

(2) If the application for a certificate of title is not accompanied by a previously issued certificate of title that includes the required information or a certificate from the manufacturer of the motorcycle's engine or frame, the department may require a vehicle inspection to confirm the make, year of manufacture, and serial or identification number of the motorcycle's engine, the frame, or both, and, if applicable, to assign a special identification number under 61-3-107.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 2007.**

61-3-215 reserved.

61-3-216. Certificates of title — application — contents — issuance. (1) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle shall apply for a certificate of title on a form prescribed by the department or, if authorized by the department, in an electronic record provided by the department and made available to an authorized agent of the department or a county treasurer.

(2) The application for a certificate of title, upon completion, must include:

(a) the owner's name, Montana residence and, if different, mailing address, and customer identification number;

(b) a description of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, including, as available and pertinent to the vehicle:

(i) the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle make, model, manufacturer's designated model year of manufacture, vehicle identification number, and type of body and a description of motive power;

(ii) the odometer reading, if applicable, at the time of transfer of ownership;

(iii) the gross vehicle weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or shipping weight, if applicable, as determined by the manufacturer;

(iv) whether the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle was new or used at the time of transfer; and

(v) for a trailer operating intrastate, its declared weight;

(c) the date on which the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle was purchased by or was transferred to the applicant, the name and address of the person from whom the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle was acquired, and the names and addresses of any secured parties or lienholders for whom the applicant is acknowledging a voluntary security interest;

(d) any other information that the department requires to identify the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle and to enable the department to determine whether the owner is entitled to a certificate of title and to determine the existence of security interests in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle;

(e) if applicable, an odometer statement containing the information required in 61-3-206 or, if the title does not contain a space for the information, a separate document approved by the department that provides the same information that is required in 61-3-206; and

(f) a section that gives the applicant the option to direct the department, upon examination and review of the records and completion of the application process, to:

(i) issue a certificate of title as soon as possible; or

(ii) update the electronic record of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, issue a transaction summary receipt, and postpone the issuance of a certificate of a title until the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle owner submits a separate request for issuance of the certificate of title.

(3) The department may require a manufacturer's certificate of origin to be submitted with an application for a certificate of title to a new motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle.

(4) Except as provided in 61-3-208 or subsection (4)(b) of this section, if the application is for a certificate of title to a used motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle, the application must be:

(a) accompanied by a certificate of title that is properly assigned by the prior owner to the applicant; or

(b) acknowledged by the prior owner if the prior owner's interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle was assigned to the applicant by means of a transfer on the electronic record of title entered by an authorized agent of the department or a county treasurer.

(5) If the application is for a certificate of title to a camper and if a certificate of title properly assigned by the prior owner is not available, the application must be accompanied by a notarized bill of sale or a conditional sales contract.

(6) If the application is for a certificate of title to a motorboat, a personal watercraft, a sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer, or a snowmobile and a certificate of title properly assigned by the prior owner is not available, the application must be accompanied by a notarized bill of sale, an invoice, the current registration receipt for the motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, or a certificate of number showing the transfer of ownership, which may be used to show the transfer of ownership for a motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile from the immediate prior owner to the applicant.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 180, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2015.

61-3-217. Certificate of title — duties — examination of application — records check — incomplete application. (1) (a) Upon receipt of an application for a certificate of title and any supporting documents, an authorized agent of the department or a county treasurer shall:

(i) review the application and documents;

(ii) complete the records check required in subsection (2); and

(iii) if an authorized agent of the department or the county treasurer is satisfied as to the genuineness and regularity of the application and satisfied that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a certificate of title, enter the transfer of interest on the electronic record of title.

(b) If an authorized agent of the department or the county treasurer is not satisfied as to the genuineness and regularity of the application or is not satisfied that the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a certificate of title, the authorized agent or the county treasurer may not enter the transfer of interest on the electronic record of title.

(c) If an authorized agent of the department or the county treasurer enters the transfer of interest on the electronic record of title, an authorized agent or the county treasurer shall:

(i) issue a transaction summary receipt to the applicant and, if requested, to any secured party or lienholder with a perfected security interest; and

(ii) as prescribed by the department, forward to the department the application, the assigned certificate of title, and any other documents provided in support of the application.

(2) The department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer who first receives an application for a certificate of title shall check the vehicle identification number shown on the application against:

(a) the records of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, or snowmobiles maintained by the department under 61-3-101;

(b) the reported stolen motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile databases maintained on the state's criminal justice information network and by the national crime information center; and

(c) any other records or databases prescribed by the department.

(3) (a) Upon receipt of an application for a certificate of title and supporting documents that have been processed by an authorized agent of the department or a county treasurer, the department shall review the documents to determine if the application is complete. If the department determines that the application is incomplete, the department shall enter the incomplete status of the application on the electronic record of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile and return to the applicant, by first-class mail, the application and all supporting documents. The department shall provide a statement with a specific description of the additional information or documents that must be supplied by the applicant to complete the application process.

(b) The department may not complete the application process, remove the incomplete status notation on the electronic record of title, or issue a certificate of title until the applicant returns the completed application, including any supporting additional information or documents, to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 44, L. 2007.**

61-3-218. Certificate of title — issuance — delivery. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a person who applied for a certificate of title also requested the issuance of the certificate of title as provided in 61-3-216(2)(f)(i), upon receipt of the application and all supporting documents and after an examination and determination that the application is complete and regular, the department shall issue a certificate of title of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile and shall mail the certificate of title to the owner.

(2) If a person to whom a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile was transferred has not satisfied the titling and registration provisions of this chapter or, if applicable, the registration provisions of Title 23, chapter 2, part 5 or 6, within the 40-day period provided in 61-3-220(3) and the secured party or lienholder pays the title fee required in 61-3-203, the department may mail a certificate of title to the secured party or lienholder upon request of the secured party or lienholder.

(3) (a) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile owner who requested the delayed issuance of a certificate of title under 61-3-216(2)(f)(ii), in the initial application for a certificate of title, may submit a request for the issuance of the certificate of title to the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer in a manner prescribed by the department. Upon receipt, the department shall issue a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile and mail the certificate of title to the owner.

(b) A title fee may not be demanded from the owner or collected by the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer for a certificate of title requested or issued under subsection (3)(a).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 596, L. 2005.**

61-3-219. Refusal to issue certificate of title. The department may refuse to issue a certificate of title if any required fee is not paid or if the department has reasonable grounds to believe that:

(1) the applicant is not the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile;

(2) the application contains a false or fraudulent statement;

(3) the applicant failed to furnish any information or document required by the department; or

(4) based on the check performed under 61-3-217(2), the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile has been reported as stolen.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-3-220. Certificate of title — voluntary transfer — duties. (1) Upon the voluntary transfer of any interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile for which a certificate of title was issued under the provisions of this chapter, the owner whose interest is to be transferred shall:

(a) authorize, in writing and on a form prescribed by the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer, to enter the transfer of the owner's interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile to the transferee on the electronic record of title maintained under 61-3-101; or

(b) execute a transfer in the appropriate space provided on the certificate of title issued to the owner and deliver the assigned certificate of title to:

(i) the transferee at the time of delivery of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile; or

(ii) the department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer if an application for a certificate of title has been completed by the transferee and accompanies the assigned certificate of title.

(2) When transfer occurs between individuals, the transferor's signature on the certificate of title, or the form authorizing transfer of interest upon the electronic record of title, must be acknowledged before the county treasurer, a deputy county treasurer, an elected official authorized to acknowledge signatures, an employee or authorized agent of the department, or a notary public.

(3) Except as provided in 61-4-111, the person to whom an interest in a motor vehicle has been transferred shall:

(a) execute an application for a certificate of title in the space provided on the assigned certificate of title or as prescribed by the department;

(b) request the return of the original title for vehicles 30 years or older, or whose certificates of title were removed from department records pursuant to 61-3-227, on a form prescribed by the department; and

(c) within 40 days after the interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile was transferred to the person, either:

(i) apply for a certificate of title under 61-3-216 and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile under 61-3-303; or

(ii) subject to the limitations of 61-3-312, register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile without the surrender of a previously assigned certificate of title and application for certificate of title under 61-3-303.

(4) If the person to whom an interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile has been transferred fails to comply with the requirements described in subsection (3) within the 40-day grace period, a late penalty of $10 must be imposed against the transferee. The penalty must be paid before the transferee registers the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile in this state, with or without the surrender of an assigned certificate of title. The penalty is in addition to the fees otherwise provided by law.

(5) If the transferee does not comply with the requirements of subsection (3) within the 40-day grace period, a secured party or lienholder of record may pay the fees for the transfer of title and for filing a voluntary security interest or lien. The secured party or lienholder is

not liable for the late penalty imposed in subsection (4) or for registration fees, taxes, or fees in lieu of tax on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile.

(6) The department may adopt rules for the transfer of vehicles in this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-3-221. Involuntary transfer. (1) (a) An involuntary transfer of title to or any interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile may occur by operation of law through inheritance, devise, bequest, order in bankruptcy or insolvency, execution sale, or repossession upon default in the performance of the terms of a lease, executory sales contract, or security agreement or in any other manner other than by voluntary act of the person whose title or interest is transferred. Upon the involuntary transfer, the executor, administrator, receiver, trustee, sheriff, secured party, or other representative or successor in interest of the person whose interest is transferred shall send to the department:

(i) an application for a certificate of title; and

(ii) a verified or certified statement of the transfer of interest or a transfer statement, as defined in 30-9A-619.

(b) The statement of transfer of interest must state the reason for the involuntary transfer, the interest transferred, the name of the person to whom the interest is to be transferred, the process or procedure creating the transfer, and other information requested by the department. A transfer statement submitted under this section must meet the requirements of 30-9A-619. Evidence and instruments that are required by law in order to effect a transfer of legal or equitable title to or an interest in chattels must be submitted with the statement.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the department determines that the transfer is regular and that all legal requirements have been complied with, the department shall send notice of the intended transfer to the owner, conditional sales vendor, lessor, mortgagee, and other lienholder, as shown in the department's records. Deposit in the U.S. mail of the notice, postage prepaid, addressed to the person at the respective address shown in the department's records satisfies the notice required by this section. Not less than 5 days after sending the notice, the department shall issue a new certificate of title to the transferee.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), if an interest in a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile that is not registered in this state is involuntarily transferred to a person in this state, the person to whom the interest is transferred shall follow the procedure provided in subsection (1).

(b) In lieu of the statement required in subsection (1), the department may accept an affidavit of repossession as executed by the person seeking the involuntary transfer.

(3) The department is not required to send notice for a transfer of interest occurring under subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-222. Surviving spouse or heir — small estates. (1) Subject to the requirements of Title 72, chapter 3, part 11, the surviving spouse or other heir may secure transfer of a decedent's ownership interests in one or more motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, or snowmobiles for which a certificate of title was issued under this chapter if:

(a) the value of the entire estate, including any vehicles, vessels, or snowmobiles for which transfer of ownership is sought, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed the limit set forth in 72-3-1101;

(b) the decedent did not leave other property that requires the procuring of letters of administration or letters testamentary; and

(c) the decedent did not by execution of a will otherwise bequeath the property.

(2) The person seeking transfer of the decedent's interests under this section shall file an affidavit with the department setting forth the fact of survivorship, the name and address of any other heirs, and any other facts determined necessary to entitle the person to the transfer.

(3) If the department determines that the transfer is regular and that all legal requirements have been met, the department shall issue a certificate of title, subject to any security interests shown by the department's records, to the surviving spouse or other heir.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 329, L. 2007.**

61-3-223. Salvage vehicles. (1) A salvage vehicle for which a certificate of title is sought must be inspected for the vehicle identification number to authenticate the identity of the motor vehicle before an electronic record of title can be created or a certificate of title can be issued. The inspection does not attest to the roadworthiness or safety condition of the motor vehicle and must be performed by an authorized employee or an authorized agent of the department or by a peace officer designated by the department.

(2) The department may contract with a person or entity for use of a facility as a regional inspection site for salvage vehicles.

(3) The department shall collect an inspection fee of $18.50 from the person requesting the inspection for each salvage vehicle inspected. The fee collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) (a) A person authorized to inspect salvage vehicles may seize and hold a vehicle:

(i) if the person has probable cause to believe that the motor vehicle has been stolen;

(ii) on which a motor number or vehicle identification number has been defaced, altered, removed, covered, destroyed, or obliterated; or

(iii) that has a vehicle identification number that does not conform with the vehicle identification number on the certificate of title.

(b) A seized motor vehicle must be held until the identity of the motor vehicle is established and arrangements are made for its lawful disposition. A person authorized to inspect salvage vehicles may use any means necessary to identify a motor vehicle by its vehicle identification number or numbers.

(5) The department may not create an electronic record of title or issue a certificate of title for a salvage vehicle until the identity of the motor vehicle is established.

(6) The department may adopt rules for the inspection of salvage vehicles.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 41, L. 2009.**

61-3-224. Temporary registration permit — issuance — placement — fees. (1) (a) The department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer may issue a temporary-registration permit for any purpose authorized under the rules adopted by the department.

(b) An authorized agent or a county treasurer may issue a temporary registration permit without use of the department-approved electronic interface only if authorized by the department.

(2) A person, using a department-approved electronic interface, may issue a temporary registration permit for any purpose authorized under the rules adopted by the department.

(3) A temporary registration permit issued under this section must contain the following information:

(a) a temporary plate number as prescribed by the department;

(b) the expiration date of the temporary registration permit; and

(c) if required by the department, a description of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile, including year, make, model, and vehicle identification number, the name of the person from whom ownership of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile was transferred, the name, mailing address, and residence address of the person to whom ownership of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, or snowmobile has been transferred, and the date of issuance.

(4) A temporary registration permit for:

(a) a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be plainly visible and firmly attached to the rear exterior of the vehicle where a license plate is required to be displayed; and

(b) a motorboat, a sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle must be plainly visible and firmly attached to the vehicle or vessel.

(5) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-431 and subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c) of this section, a $19.50 fee is imposed upon issuance of a temporary registration permit by the department, an

authorized agent, or a county treasurer. The fee must be paid by the owner of the vehicle or vessel and collected by the department, the authorized agent, or a county treasurer when the vehicle is registered.

(b) Except as provided in 61-3-431, a fee of $24.50 is imposed and must be paid upon issuance of a temporary registration permit by:

(i) the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer to a nonresident of this state who acquires a vehicle or vessel in this state or who registers for temporary use in this state a quadricycle or motorcycle designed for off-road recreational use; or

(ii) a person who issued a temporary registration permit using a department-approved electronic interface.

(c) A fee of $24 is imposed and must be paid upon issuance of a temporary registration permit for a 90-day temporary registration permit as provided in 61-3-303(4)(b).

(6) The fees imposed under this section, upon collection, must be forwarded to the state and deposited as follows:

(a) $16.50 from each permit fee collected pursuant to subsection (5) in the state special revenue account established in 44-10-204; and

(b) the remainder in the motor vehicle electronic commerce operating account provided for in 61-3-118.

(7) If a temporary registration permit is issued under this section to a person to whom ownership of a vehicle or vessel has been transferred, the permitholder shall title and register the vehicle or vessel in this or another jurisdiction before the ownership of the vehicle or vessel may be transferred to another person.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 47, 138, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 384, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 435, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

61-3-225. Motor vehicle wrecking facility quarterly reports. Quarterly, the owner or operator of a motor vehicle wrecking facility, as defined in 75-10-501, shall deliver to the department or an authorized agent, on a form approved by the department, a list of all junk vehicles, as defined in 75-10-501, received by the owner or operator of the motor vehicle wrecking facility during the quarter, stating the year, make, and complete identification number of each vehicle. If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle wrecking facility received a certificate of title when the owner or operator of the facility received a junk vehicle on the list, that certificate of title must accompany the list. The department shall issue a receipt for the certificate of title if requested by the owner or operator of the facility, and the receipt may serve as an instrument for reclaiming the certificate of title if the vehicle is rebuilt.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 53, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-226. Certificate of title — transfer on death. (1) The owner or joint owners of a vehicle or vessel may arrange for nonprobate transfer of the vehicle's or vessel's title at the time of death of the owner or last surviving joint owner by completing the beneficiary designation on the application for certificate of title prescribed by the department.

(2) The beneficiary designation must include fields for the following information:

(a) the make, model, year, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle or vessel;

(b) the name and signature of the owner or every joint owner of the vehicle or vessel, signed under penalty of unsworn falsification as provided in 45-7-203; and

(c) the name of the beneficiary or the names of the beneficiaries of the vehicle or vessel.

(3) (a) A beneficiary designation is perfected when it is submitted to the department with an application for certificate of title and if it provides the information and signatures required in subsection (2).

(b) An instrument for the testamentary transfer of a vehicle or vessel does not invalidate a perfected beneficiary designation.

(4) The owner or joint owners of a vehicle or vessel may revoke a perfected beneficiary designation by:

(a) transferring the vehicle or vessel to the beneficiary or a third party before death; or

(b) submitting a new beneficiary designation with an application for certificate of title.

(5) (a) After the death of the owner or last surviving joint owner of a vehicle or vessel subject to a perfected beneficiary designation, the beneficiary may present the proof of death of the owner or joint owners of the vehicle or vessel listed as a beneficiary and identification of the beneficiary to the department, to the county treasurer's office, or to an authorized agent and:

(i) request a replacement title for the vehicle or vessel; or

(ii) effect transfer of the title of the vehicle or vessel as required by 61-3-220.

(b) The beneficiary does not acquire any use, ownership, economic, or other interest in the vehicle or vessel until the beneficiary has filed the documents required by subsection (4) and the department, the county treasurer's office, or an authorized agent has either issued a replacement title or effected the transfer of the title.

(6) This section does not limit the rights of a lienholder whose lien attached to the vehicle or vessel prior to the death of the owner or last surviving joint owner named on the beneficiary designation.

(7) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "vehicle" means a vehicle or camper as those terms are defined by 61-1-101, manufactured home as defined by 15-24-201, mobile home as defined by 15-24-201, or other item for which a certificate of title is issued by the department and that have not been considered or declared an improvement to real property pursuant to 15-1-116;

(b) "vessel" means a vessel as defined by 61-1-101.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-3-227. Replacement certificate of title — data removed by department — application requirements. (1) Vehicles removed from the department's records because of the department's data retention procedures may be reentered into the system at the request of the last owner of record. The department may issue a certificate of title if the applicant complies with the requirements of subsection (2).

(2) The applicant shall submit an affidavit in a form prescribed by the department. The affidavit must accompany the application for a replacement certificate of title provided for in 61-3-204 and is subject to the fees within that section. The affidavit must also include the last title or registration issued to the owner.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 3
Registration

Part Cross-References

Authorization to issue confidential plates and registration, Title 44, ch. 4, part 2.

61-3-301. Registration — license plate required — display. (1) (a) A person may not operate a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer upon the public highways of Montana unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is properly registered and has the proper license plates conspicuously displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer. A license plate must be securely fastened to prevent it from swinging and may not be obstructed from plain view.

(b) (i) Except as provided in 61-4-120, 61-4-129, and subsections (1)(b)(ii) through (1)(b)(iv) of this section, all motor vehicles must have one license plate displayed horizontally on the front and one license plate displayed horizontally on the rear of the motor vehicle.

(ii) A motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer must have a single license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle, which may be displayed horizontally or vertically if available space does not permit horizontal display.

(iii) A custom vehicle or a street rod registered under 61-3-320(1)(b) or (1)(c)(iii) may display a single license plate firmly attached to the rear exterior of the custom vehicle or street rod.

(iv) If a person is not able to comply with the requirement that a front license plate be displayed because of the body construction of the motor vehicle, the person may submit to the highway patrol an application for a waiver along with a $25 inspection fee. A certificate of waiver must be issued upon inspection of the vehicle by a highway patrol officer. The certificate must at all times be carried in the motor vehicle and must be displayed upon demand of a peace officer. Money collected from the inspection fee must be deposited in a highway revenue account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of transportation.

(c) A person may not display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer at the same time a number assigned to it under any motor vehicle law except as provided in this chapter.

(d) A low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license must have special license plates, as provided in 61-3-332(9), displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle.

(2) A person may not purchase or display on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer a license plate bearing the number assigned to any county, as provided in 61-3-332, other than the county where the vehicle is domiciled or the county where the trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer is domiciled at the time of application for registration.

(3) It is unlawful to:

(a) display license plates issued to one motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer on any other motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or travel trailer unless legally transferred as provided by statute;

(b) repaint old license plates to resemble current license plates; or

(c) invert or reverse a license plate. License plates displayed horizontally must be readable from left to right. License plates displayed vertically must be readable from top to bottom.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "conspicuously displayed" means that the required license plates are obviously visible and firmly attached by two separate fasteners to:

(a) the front bumper and the rear bumper of a motor vehicle that is subject to subsection (1)(b)(i) and is equipped with front and rear bumpers; or

(b) a clearly visible location on the rear of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, travel trailer, or motor vehicle that is subject to subsections (1)(b)(ii) through (1)(b)(iv).

History: En. Subd. 6, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-119; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 525, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 458, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Standard license plates, 61-3-332.

61-3-302. Residents operating motor vehicles under licenses issued by any state other than Montana forbidden — vehicles exempt from registration — exceptions. (1) (a) A resident of the state of Montana who owns a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer may not operate the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer with license plates issued by any other state than Montana.

(b) (i) A person who has resided in Montana for more than 60 consecutive days is considered to be a resident for the purpose of vehicle titling and registration laws, and a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person must be titled and registered under the laws of Montana prior to operation in this state after the 60-day period.

(ii) A person serving or retired from serving aboard the USS Montana is considered, at the election of the person, a resident for the purpose of motor vehicle titling and registration laws and may apply for a USS Montana specialty license plate pursuant to 61-3-479(1)(a)(ii). Residency is not conferred for any other purpose.

(2) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer driven or moved upon a highway in this state and owned by a nonresident of this state is exempt from registration under this chapter if:

(a) the vehicle is properly registered in and displays valid license plates of the jurisdiction in which the nonresident owner resides; and

(b) (i) the vehicle is not used for the transportation of persons or property for hire, compensation, or profit;

(ii) the nonresident owner is not employed or engaged in a commercial or business enterprise in this state; or

(iii) the vehicle is used for the exclusive purpose of filming motion pictures or television commercials and does not remain in the state for a period in excess of 180 consecutive days in a calendar year.

(3) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is owned by a manufacturer, a dealer, a wholesaler, or an auto auction and that is held for sale is exempt from registration under this part even though the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is incidentally moved on the highway and is used for purposes of testing or demonstration or is used by a manufacturer solely for testing.

(4) A junk vehicle, as defined in Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, being driven to an auto wrecking graveyard for disposal is exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Subd. 8, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.6, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 53-121; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 49, 140, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 663, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 663, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

Foreign vehicles to display license plates, 61-3-702.

61-3-303. Original registration — process — fees. (1) Except as provided in 61-3-324, a Montana resident who is an owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated or driven upon the public highways of this state shall register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the county where the registering owner is domiciled. A nonresident who has an interest in real property in Montana may register in the county where the real property is located a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated or driven upon the public highways of this state. A person serving or retired from serving aboard the USS Montana may register by mail in Lewis and Clark County using forms prescribed by the department.

(2) A Montana resident who is an owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer with co-owners, one or more of whom are not Montana residents, may register the vehicle regardless of the fact that one or more of the co-owners would otherwise not qualify to register the vehicle under subsection (1) if the registering Montana resident is:

(a) an individual human being; and

(b) the principal operator of, and in whom is vested the right of possession and control of, the vehicle.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the county treasurer or an authorized agent shall register any vehicle for which:

(a) as of the date that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is to be registered, an owner delivers an application for a certificate of title to the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer; or

(b) the county treasurer or an authorized agent confirms that the department has an electronic record of title for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided under 61-3-101.

(4) (a) A county treasurer or an authorized agent may register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for which a certificate of title and registration were issued in another jurisdiction and for which registration is required under 61-3-701 after the county treasurer or the authorized agent examines the current out-of-jurisdiction registration certificate or receipt and receives payment of the fees required in 61-3-701. The county treasurer or an authorized

agent may ask the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owner to provide additional information, prescribed by the department, to ensure that the electronic record of registration maintained by the department is complete.

(b) A county treasurer or an authorized agent shall collect fees pursuant to 61-3-203 and 61-3-220(4) and issue a 90-day temporary registration permit pursuant to 61-3-224 for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for which the new owner cannot, due to circumstances beyond the new owner's control, surrender a previously assigned certificate of title. The new owner shall request the 90-day temporary registration permit from the authorized agent or county treasurer that originally issued the temporary registration permit.

(c) A person serving or retired from serving aboard the USS Montana shall include in an application for a certificate of title, in a manner prescribed by the department, proof that the person has current orders to serve or has previously served aboard the USS Montana.

(5) Upon registering a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for the first time in this state, the county treasurer or an authorized agent shall:

(a) update the electronic record of title, if any, maintained for the vehicle by the department under 61-3-101;

(b) assign a registration period for the vehicle under 61-3-311;

(c) determine the vehicle's age, if required, under 61-3-501;

(d) determine the amount of fees, including local option taxes or fees, to be paid under subsection (6); and

(e) assign and issue license plates for the vehicle under 61-3-331.

(6) Unless otherwise provided by law, a person registering a motor vehicle shall pay to the county treasurer or an authorized agent:

(a) the fees in lieu of tax or registration fees as required for:

(i) a light vehicle under 61-3-321 or 61-3-562, in addition to, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570;

(ii) a motor home under 61-3-321;

(iii) a travel trailer under 61-3-321;

(iv) a motorcycle or quadricycle under 61-3-321;

(v) a bus, a truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, or a truck tractor under 61-3-321 and 61-3-529; or

(vi) a trailer under 61-3-321;

(b) a donation of $1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations in Montana to favorably impact anatomical gifts;

(c) a donation of $1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to promote education on, support for, and awareness of traumatic brain injury; and

(d) a donation of $1 or more if the person indicates that the person wishes to donate to a program supporting cancer screening.

(7) The county treasurer or an authorized agent may not issue a registration receipt or license plates for the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to the owner unless the owner makes the payments required by subsection (6).

(8) The department may make full and complete investigation of the registration status of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. A person seeking to register a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer under this section shall provide additional information to support the registration to the department if requested.

(9) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donations provided for in subsection (6) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer or an authorized agent to the department for deposit as follows:

(a) in the state special revenue fund to the credit of an account established by the department of labor and industry to support activities related to awareness and education efforts for procurement of organ and tissue donations for anatomical gifts if the revenue is from the donation provided for in subsection (6)(b);

(b) to the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 if the revenue is from the donation provided for in subsection (6)(c); and

(c) to the credit of the special revenue account established in 33-22-2104 if the revenue is from the donation provided for in subsection (6)(d).

(10) (a) Except as provided in subsection (10)(b), the fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees imposed on or collected from the registration of a travel trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle or a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that has a declared weight of less than 26,000 pounds are required to be paid only once during the time that the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned by the same person who registered the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. When registered, a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is registered permanently unless ownership is transferred or unless it was registered under 61-3-701.

(b) Whenever ownership of a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is transferred, the new owner is required to register the travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as if it were being registered for the first time, including paying all of the required fees in lieu of tax, taxes, and fees.

(11) The department, an authorized agent of the department, or a county treasurer shall use the online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system provided in 61-6-157 to verify that the vehicle owner has complied with the requirements of 61-6-301.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-114(1), (3); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 502, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 200, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Secs. 60, 83(2), Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 28, 47(2)(a), Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 50, 142, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 435, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 663, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 782, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 3, Ch. 663, L. 2023, in (1) inserted last sentence and inserted (4)(c) regarding a person seeking a certificate of title who is serving or retired from serving aboard the USS Montana. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 9, Ch. 782, L. 2023, inserted (6)(d) regarding donations to support cancer screenings; in (9)(a) inserted final phrase after "anatomical gifts"; inserted (9)(b) and (9)(c) regarding donations being credited to certain special revenue accounts; deleted former (11) that read: "(11) Revenue that accrues from the voluntary donation provided in subsection (6)(c) must be forwarded by the respective county treasurer or an authorized agent to the department for deposit in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the account established in 2-15-2218 to support activities related to education regarding prevention of traumatic brain injury"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 12, Ch. 782, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to insurance policies, certificates, and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2024."

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer — fees, 7-6-2111, 7-6-2131.
Suspension of property taxes for persons in military service, 10-1-606.
Motor vehicle assessment, 15-8-202.
Property tax levies, Title 15, ch. 10.
U.C.C. — security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Issuance of collegiate license plates, 61-3-465.

61-3-304. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 158, L. 1933; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1755.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 53-103; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-3-305. Repealed. Sec. 81, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1756, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1756, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 53-105; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

61-3-306 through 61-3-310 reserved.

61-3-311. Registration — time periods. (1) Unless a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is subject to permanent registration under this title and except as provided in 61-3-313, 61-3-701, 61-3-721, and subsection (3) of this section, the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall, upon original registration of a motor vehicle in this state, assign each motor vehicle to a registration period, as provided in 61-3-316, based upon the calendar month in which the motor vehicle is first registered in this state and designate the calendar year in which the current registration will expire.

(2) Each registration period commences on the first day of the calendar month in the calendar year in which the motor vehicle is registered and the motor vehicle's registration expires on the earlier of:

(a) the last day of the month preceding the anniversary of the registration period for the year designated on the motor vehicle's registration decal if the motor vehicle is registered for a minimum 12-month period;

(b) the last day of the month preceding the anniversary of the registration period for the year designated on the motor vehicle's registration decal if the motor vehicle is registered for a period of at least 13 but less than 25 months; or

(c) the transfer of ownership of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to another person.

(3) (a) Upon request of the motor vehicle owner, a county treasurer or an authorized agent may assign a motor vehicle to a registration period, as provided in 61-3-316, other than a registration period beginning in the calendar month in which the motor vehicle is first registered in this state if at least 13 but less than 25 months will elapse between the first day of the calendar month in which the motor vehicle is registered and the last day of the month preceding the anniversary of the requested registration period in the year designated on the motor vehicle's registration decal.

(b) The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall determine fees imposed for a motor vehicle registered for a period between 13 and 24 months. All registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, or local option taxes or fees that are imposed on an annual basis must be prorated based on the number of months in the requested registration period.

(c) A motor vehicle registered under the provisions of 61-3-303(4)(b) may not be registered under this subsection (3).

(4) If a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is permanently registered under the provisions of this chapter, the registration is not subject to expiration unless the registered owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer transfers ownership of the vehicle to another person.

History: En. Subd. 2, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-115; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 29, 47(2)(b), Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 51, 143, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Issuance of collegiate license plates, 61-3-465.

61-3-312. Renewal of registration — exceptions — grace period. (1) Except as provided in 61-3-313 and 61-3-721, the registration of a motor vehicle under this chapter must be renewed on or before the last day of the month of the motor vehicle's registration period following the expiration of the motor vehicle's registration.

(2) A person may renew a motor vehicle's registration by submitting full payment for the fees or taxes required under 61-3-303 and 61-3-321(13) to the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer in any county of this state.

(3) The department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall use the online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system provided in 61-6-157 to verify proof of compliance with 61-6-301.

(4) The registration period originally assigned under 61-3-311 must be retained and the duration of the renewed registration is determined in accordance with 61-3-311. A registration receipt is valid for the registration period for which it is issued.

(5) The owner of a motor vehicle subject to registration renewal under the provisions of this section is considered to have renewed the motor vehicle's registration in a timely manner if the owner submits full payment for the required fees or taxes, as prescribed in the mail renewal notice from the department, to the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer on or before the last day of the month of the motor vehicle's registration period.

(6) The department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer may not renew the registration of a motor vehicle for which ownership has been transferred and that was originally registered without being titled under the provisions of 61-3-303(4)(b) unless:

(a) the previously issued certificate of title has been surrendered to the department, an authorized agent, or the county treasurer and the process for issuing a certificate of title has been completed; or

(b) the person to whom ownership of the motor vehicle has been transferred presents an affidavit and bond in support of the application for a certificate of title as permitted in 61-3-208.

History: En. Subd. 2, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-108(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 146, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 52, 144, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Issuance of collegiate license plates, 61-3-465.

61-3-313. Motor vehicles exempt from registration renewal. (1) The following motor vehicles are exempt from the registration renewal requirements of 61-3-312:

(a) motor vehicles owned or leased and operated by the government of the United States or by the state of Montana or a political subdivision of the state;

(b) motor vehicles registered as part of a fleet under 61-3-318; and

(c) apportionable motor vehicles registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

(2) Unless a transfer of ownership occurs, a travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorcycle, or quadricycle, including a motorcycle or quadricycle registered only for off-highway use under Title 23, chapter 2, part 8, is permanently registered.

History: En. 53-154 by Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-154; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 53, 145, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle assessment, 15-8-202.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Fleet registration period, 61-3-318.
Assessment, 61-3-503.
Taxes — exemption, 61-3-507.
Standards of maximum dimensions, weights, etc., 61-10-101.

61-3-314. Registration period. For the purposes of this chapter, there are 12 registration periods to which a motor vehicle may be assigned. Each registration period commences on the first day of a calendar month. The periods are:

(1)	January 1 through January 31	1st period
(2)	February 1 through February 28/29	2nd period
(3)	March 1 through March 31	3rd period
(4)	April 1 through April 30	4th period
(5)	May 1 through May 31	5th period
(6)	June 1 through June 30	6th period
(7)	July 1 through July 31	7th period
(8)	August 1 through August 31	8th period
(9)	September 1 through September 30	9th period
(10)	October 1 through October 31	10th period
(11)	November 1 through November 30	11th period
(12)	December 1 through December 31	12th period

History: En. 53-155, 53-156 by Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947; 53-155, 53-156; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 54, 146, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Vehicle and property taxes — when due, 61-3-501.

61-3-315. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

History: En. 53-157 by Sec. 4, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-157; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

61-3-316. New registrations. Except as provided in 61-3-311, a motor vehicle that is registered for the first time in this state must be assigned a registration period corresponding to when the motor vehicle is first registered in this state. Except as permitted in 61-3-318 or 61-3-324, the registration period for a motor vehicle must remain the same from year to year.

History: En. 53-158 by Sec. 5, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-158(part); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-3-317. New registration required for transferred motor vehicle — grace period — penalty — display of proof of purchase. (1) The new owner of a transferred motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has a grace period of 40 calendar days from the date of purchase to make application for a certificate of title and pay the registration fees, fees in lieu of tax and other fees required by this chapter, and local option taxes, if applicable. However, the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer may not be operated upon the streets and highways of this state during this period unless a temporary registration permit has been issued for and is properly displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as permitted by 61-3-224.

(2) If the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer was not purchased from a licensed motor vehicle dealer as provided in this chapter, it is not a violation of this chapter or any other law for the purchaser to operate the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer upon the streets and highways of this state without a current registration receipt or registration decal during the period allowed under 61-1-101(81)(b) if at all times during that period a temporary registration permit issued under 61-3-224 is properly displayed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 399, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-147; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 57, 147, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 435, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

61-3-318. Fleet registration period. (1) (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title regarding the registration of motor vehicles, a person owning or leasing a fleet may register its fleet for a 6-month or a 9-month period, commencing from the date of original registration.

(b) A motor vehicle remaining in the fleet at the end of a 6-month or a 9-month period must be reregistered for a minimum of 12 months.

(2) As used in this section, "fleet" means automobiles or trucks having a rated capacity of three-quarters of a ton or less that are rented or offered for rental without drivers and that are designated by a rental owner as a rental fleet in a quantity set by the department pursuant to 61-14-101.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Vehicles subject to staggered registration — fleet vehicles excepted, 61-3-313.

61-3-319. Registration of custom-built motorcycle — exemptions. (1) Upon original registration of a custom-built motorcycle, the owner of the custom-built motorcycle shall:

(a) pay the fees required in 61-3-321, plus an additional $10 fee, to be deposited in the state general fund;

(b) certify, in writing, that the motorcycle is:

(i) not used for general transportation purposes; and

(ii) is equipped as required by the state law in effect in the year of manufacture of the motorcycle, as determined under 61-3-214.

(2) A custom-built motorcycle registered under this section is exempt from vehicle equipment requirements under chapter 9 of this title unless the equipment was required under state law in the year of manufacture of the motorcycle, as listed on the registration receipt for the motorcycle and determined under 61-3-214.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-3-320. Registration — custom vehicle, street rod, originally equipped older vehicle, kit vehicle, or specially constructed vehicle. (1) (a) A custom vehicle or street rod:

(i) that is more than 30 years old may be registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item; or

(ii) may be registered, depending on the vehicle type, as a motor home, a bus, a truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, a truck tractor, or a light vehicle upon payment of the registration fee required in 61-3-321, the applicable fee or fee in lieu of tax provided for in 61-3-529 or 61-3-562, and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570.

(b) The owner of a custom vehicle or street rod that is originally registered under subsection (1)(a) or that was registered prior to January 1, 2006, may be authorized to operate the custom vehicle or street rod while displaying only one license plate on the rear exterior of the vehicle if the owner certifies that the custom vehicle or street rod is not used for general transportation purposes and pays an additional $10 fee, to be deposited in the state general fund.

(c) (i) Upon original registration of a custom vehicle or street rod under subsection (1)(a)(i), a custom vehicle or street rod must be assigned a set of pioneer or vintage license plates, as described in 61-3-411(2), or a set of original Montana license plates or collector reproduction license plates, as allowed under 61-3-412.

(ii) Upon original registration of a custom vehicle or street rod under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and unless the owner has applied for personalized license plates, special license plates for military personnel, veterans, or spouses, collegiate plates, or generic specialty license plates or has met the requirements of subsection (1)(b), a set of standard license plates must be assigned to the vehicle under 61-3-331.

(iii) Upon original registration of a custom vehicle or street rod under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and if the owner of a custom vehicle or street rod has met the requirements of subsection (1)(b), a single license plate, including a personalized standard license plate, special license plate for military personnel, veterans, or spouses, collegiate plate, or generic specialty license plate, if otherwise available to the vehicle owner or vehicle type, may be issued for the custom vehicle or street rod.

(d) The owner of an originally equipped motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, that is more than 30 years old and that is not registered as a collector's item under 61-3-411 may be authorized to operate the motor vehicle while displaying only one license plate on the rear exterior of the vehicle, as if it were a custom vehicle or street rod, if the owner:

(i) certifies that the originally equipped motor vehicle is not used for general transportation purposes;

(ii) pays any fees required under 61-3-321, 61-3-529, or 61-3-562 and, if applicable, a local option tax or fee under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570, plus an additional $10 fee, to be deposited in the state general fund; and

(iii) is otherwise eligible, based on the owner's status and the vehicle type, for one of the single license plate options available to an owner of a custom vehicle or street rod under this subsection (1).

(2) (a) The owner of a kit vehicle shall pay the registration fees provided for in 61-3-321 and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570.

(b) Upon original registration of a kit vehicle and unless the owner has applied for special license plates, collegiate plates, or generic specialty license plates, standard license plates must be assigned and issued to the kit vehicle under 61-3-331.

(3) (a) Depending on whether the specially constructed vehicle is a motor home, bus, truck having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, truck tractor, or light vehicle, the owner of a specially constructed vehicle shall pay the registration fees provided for in 61-3-321,

any registration fee or fee in lieu of tax provided for in 61-3-529, and, if applicable, any local option tax or fee under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570.

(b) Upon original registration of a specially constructed vehicle and unless the owner has applied for special license plates, collegiate plates, or generic specialty license plates, standard license plates must be assigned and issued to the specially constructed vehicle under 61-3-331.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 458, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 295, L. 2019.

61-3-321. Registration fees of vehicles and vessels — certain vehicles exempt from registration fees — disposition of fees — definition. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, registration fees must be paid upon registration or, if applicable, renewal of registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, watercraft, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers as provided in subsections (2) through (20).

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), unless a light vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562, the annual registration fee for light vehicles, trucks, and buses that weigh 1 ton or less and for logging trucks that weigh 1 ton or less is as follows:

(i) if the vehicle is 4 or less years old, $217;

(ii) if the vehicle is 5 through 10 years old, $87; and

(iii) if the vehicle is 11 or more years old, $28.

(b) For a light vehicle with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of more than $150,000 that is 10 years old or less, the annual registration fee is the amount provided for in subsection (2)(a) plus $825.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsections (3)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee based on the declared weight of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is as follows:

(i) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, $61.25; or

(ii) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, $148.25.

(b) For a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered under 61-3-701, the annual registration fee based on the declared weight is as follows:

(i) if the declared weight is less than 6,000 pounds, $30; or

(ii) if the declared weight is 6,000 pounds or more, $60.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for motor vehicles owned and operated solely as collector's items pursuant to 61-3-411, based on the weight of the vehicle, is as follows:

(a) 2,850 pounds and over, $10; and

(b) under 2,850 pounds, $5.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsections (5)(b) and (15), the one-time registration fee for off-highway vehicles other than a quadricycle or motorcycle is $61.25.

(b) Whenever a valid summer motorized recreation trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-111 is affixed to an off-highway vehicle other than a quadricycle or motorcycle, the one-time registration fee is $41.25.

(6) The annual registration fee for heavy trucks, buses, and logging trucks in excess of 1 ton is $22.75.

(7) (a) Except as provided in subsection (7)(c), the annual registration fee for a motor home, based on the age of the motor home, is as follows:

(i) less than 2 years old, $282.50;

(ii) 2 years old and less than 5 years old, $224.25;

(iii) 5 years old and less than 8 years old, $132.50; and

(iv) 8 years old and older, $97.50.

(b) The owner of a motor home that is 11 years old or older and that is subject to the registration fee under this section may permanently register the motor home upon payment of:

(i) a one-time registration fee of $237.50;

(ii) unless a new set of license plates is being issued, an insurance verification fee of $5, which must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158;

(iii) if applicable, five times the renewal fees for personalized license plates under 61-3-406; and

(iv) if applicable, the donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or a collegiate license plate under 61-3-465.

(c) For a motor home with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of more than $300,000 that is 10 years old or less, the annual registration fee is the amount provided in subsection (7)(a) plus $800.

(8) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsections (8)(b), (8)(c), and (15), the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on the public highways is $53.25, the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for off-highway use is $53.25, and the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways is $114.50.

(ii) An additional fee of $16 must be collected for the registration of each motorcycle or quadricycle as a safety fee, which must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

(b) (i) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for use on the public highways under 61-3-701 is $44.

(ii) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for off-highway use under 61-3-701 is $44.

(iii) The annual registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for both off-road use and for use on the public highways under 61-3-701 is $88.

(iv) An additional safety fee of $7 must be collected annually for each motorcycle or quadricycle registered under 61-3-701. The safety fee must be deposited in the state motorcycle safety account provided for in 20-25-1002.

(c) Whenever a valid summer motorized recreation trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-111 is affixed to a motorcycle or quadricycle, the one-time registration fee for motorcycles and quadricycles registered for:

(i) use on the public highways is $33.25; and

(ii) both off-road use and for use on the public highways is $94.50.

(9) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for travel trailers, based on the length of the travel trailer, is as follows:

(a) under 16 feet in length, $72; and

(b) 16 feet in length or longer, $152.

(10) Except as provided in subsection (15), the one-time registration fee for a motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, or motorized pontoon required to be numbered under 23-2-512 is as follows:

(a) for a personal watercraft or a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon less than 16 feet in length, $65.50;

(b) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon at least 16 feet in length but less than 19 feet in length, $125.50; and

(c) for a motorboat, sailboat, or motorized pontoon 19 feet in length or longer, $295.50.

(11) (a) Except as provided in subsections (11)(b), (11)(c), and (15), the one-time registration fee for a snowmobile is $60.50.

(b) Whenever a valid winter trail pass issued pursuant to 23-2-636 is affixed to a snowmobile, the one-time registration fee is $40.50.

(c) (i) A snowmobile that is licensed by a Montana business and is owned exclusively for the purpose of daily rental to customers is assessed:

(A) a fee of $40.50 in the first year of registration; and

(B) if the business reregisters the snowmobile for a second year, a fee of $20.

(ii) If the business reregisters the snowmobile for a third year, the snowmobile must be permanently registered and the business is assessed the registration fee imposed in subsection (11)(a).

(12) (a) The one-time registration fee for a low-speed electric vehicle is $25.

(b) The one-time registration fee for a golf cart that is owned by a person who has or is applying for a low-speed restricted driver's license is $25.

(c) The one-time registration fee for golf carts authorized to operate on certain public streets and highways pursuant to 61-8-391 is $25. Upon receipt of the fee, the department shall issue the owner a decal, which must be displayed visibly on the golf cart.

(13) (a) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b), a fee of $12 must be collected when a new set of standard license plates, a new single standard license plate, or a replacement set of

special license plates required under 61-3-332 is issued. The fee imposed under this subsection (13)(a) does not apply when previously issued license plates are transferred under 61-3-335. All registration fees imposed under this section must be paid if the vehicle to which the plates are transferred is not currently registered.

(b) An additional fee of $16 must be collected if a vehicle owner elects to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under 61-3-332(3).

(c) The fees imposed in this subsection (13) must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158, except that $2 of the fee imposed in subsection (13)(a) must be deposited in the state general fund.

(14) The provisions of this part with respect to the payment of registration fees do not apply to and are not binding upon motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, snowmobiles, watercraft, or tractors owned or controlled by the United States of America or any state, county, city, or special district, as defined in 18-8-202, or to a vehicle or vessel that meets the description of property exempt from taxation under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(k), (1)(l), (1)(n), or (1)(o), 15-6-203, or 15-6-215, except as provided in 61-3-520.

(15) Whenever ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, off-highway vehicle, motorcycle, quadricycle, travel trailer, motor home, motorboat, sailboat, personal watercraft, motorized pontoon, snowmobile, motor vehicle owned and operated solely as a collector's item pursuant to 61-3-411, or low-speed electric vehicle is transferred, the new owner shall title and register the vehicle or vessel as required by this chapter and pay the fees imposed under this section.

(16) A person eligible for a waiver under 61-3-460 is exempt from the fees required under this section.

(17) Except as otherwise provided in this section, revenue collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(18) The fees imposed by subsections (2) through (12) are not required to be paid by a dealer for the enumerated vehicles or vessels that constitute inventory of the dealership.

(19) (a) Unless a person exercises the option in either subsection (19)(b) or (19)(c), an additional fee of $9 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. Of the $9 fee:

(i) $6.74 must be deposited in the state special revenue account established in 23-1-105 and used for state parks;

(ii) 50 cents must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and used for fishing access sites;

(iii) $1.37 must be deposited in the trails and recreation facilities state special revenue account established in 23-2-108; and

(iv) 39 cents must be deposited in the Montana heritage preservation and development account established in 22-3-1004 and used for the operation of state-owned facilities at Virginia City and Nevada City.

(b) A person who registers a light vehicle may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use the vehicle to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional $9 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected.

(c) (i) A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, certify that the person does not intend to use any of the vehicles to visit state parks and fishing access sites and may make a written election not to pay the additional $9 fee provided for in subsection (19)(a). If a written election is made, the fee may not be collected at any subsequent annual registration unless the person makes the written election to pay the additional fee on one or more of the light vehicles.

(ii) The written election not to pay the additional fee on a light vehicle expires if the vehicle is registered to a different person.

(20) For each light vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, heavy truck, motor home, motorcycle, quadricycle, and travel trailer subject to a registration fee under this section, an additional fee of $10 must be collected and forwarded to the state for deposit in the account established in 44-1-504.

(21) (a) If a person exercises the option in subsection (21)(b), an additional fee of $5 must be collected for each light vehicle registered under this part. This fee must be accounted for and transmitted separately from the registration fee. The fee must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund. Funds in the account are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of transportation and must be allocated as provided in 60-3-309.

(b) A person who registers one or more light vehicles may, at the time of annual registration, make a written or electronic election to pay the additional $5 fee provided for in subsection (21)(a).

(22) This section does not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is governed by 61-3-721.

(23) (a) The $800 and $825 amounts collected based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price in subsections (2) and (7) are exempt from the provisions of 15-1-122 and must be deposited in the motor vehicle division administration account established in 61-3-112.

(b) By August 15 of each year, beginning in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, the department of justice shall deposit into the general fund an amount equal to the fiscal yearend balance minus 25% of the current fiscal year appropriation for the account established in 61-3-112.

(24) For the purposes of this section, "manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the price suggested by a manufacturer for each given type, style, or model of a light vehicle or motor home produced and first made available for retail sale by the manufacturer.

History: (1) thru (4), (6), (7)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1933; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1977; Sec. 53-122, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1757, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1757, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 492, L. 1977; Sec. 53-106, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106(part), 53-122(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 654, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 535, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 627, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 654, L. 1989; amd. Secs. 3, 5, Ch. 567, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 735, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 532, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 491, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 601, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 3, 9, Ch. 421, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 4, 8, Ch. 500, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 58, 150, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 278, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 351, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 416, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 219, L. 2019; amd. Secs. 5, 28, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 353, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 153, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 540, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 540, L. 2023. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Cross-References

State-owned motor vehicles, Title 2, ch. 17, part 4.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Highway patrol retirement — supplemental retirement allowance for certain retirees, 19-6-709.
Motorcycles and quadricycles used for recreation — decal required, 23-2-804.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Proportional registration of fleet vehicles, 61-3-721.
Single movement permit, 61-4-310.
Permits issued to governmental entities, 61-10-127.

61-3-322. Registration receipts — issuance. (1) Upon completion of the original registration or registration renewal process, the department, an authorized agent, or a county treasurer shall issue a registration receipt to the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(2) The registration receipt must contain the name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, the license plate number assigned to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, sufficient information to identify the registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and determine its registration date and period of registration, and any additional information required by rule.

(3) The registration receipt must at all times be carried in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to which it refers or must be carried by the person driving or in control of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, who shall display it upon demand of a peace officer or any officer or employee of the department or the department of transportation.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1975; Sec. 53-107, R.C.M. 1947; (4), (5)En. Subd. 3, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1955; Sec. 53-116, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-107(part), 53-116(part); amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 502, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 363, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Penalty for violations, 61-3-601.
Used motor vehicles — transfer to and from dealers, 61-4-111.
Excess weight — penalties, 61-10-233.
Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-3-323. Definitions. As used in 61-3-323 through 61-3-325, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Domicile" means the county in which a motor vehicle is most frequently used, dispatched, or controlled.

(2) "Fleet" means motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned or leased by a person operating the motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers in this state in a quantity set by the department pursuant to 61-14-101.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 407, L. 2021.

61-3-324. Fleet registration — application — additions to and deletions from fleet. (1) A person owning or leasing a fleet may register the fleet annually through the department in lieu of registering each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in its domicile.

(2) The fleet owner or lessor and the department may enter into an agreement to change the registration period for the fleet in a manner that comports with the requirements of 61-3-311(3).

(3) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer may be added to the fleet at any time during the registration period. If a certificate of title for a vehicle to be added to the fleet has not been issued by the department, the fleet owner or lessor may submit the application for certificate of title directly to the department.

(4) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer may be removed from a fleet if the fleet owner or lessor notifies the department of its removal. Upon receipt of the notice, the department shall cancel the vehicle's registration.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 407, L. 2021.

61-3-325. Fleet registration — license plates. (1) The department or an authorized agent shall compute fees and taxes due on each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the fleet as provided in parts 3 and 5 of this chapter, based on its domicile.

(2) The department may issue a separate series of license plates that do not require a registration decal to be affixed. Fleet series license plates may have the same background as standard license plates issued under 61-3-332 but may have a separate numbering system determined by the department pursuant to 61-14-101. At the request of the fleet owner or lessor

and upon payment of all applicable fees, a license plate type other than the fleet plate may be issued to a fleet vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 61, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 407, L. 2021.

61-3-326 through 61-3-330 reserved.

61-3-331. Assignment of license plates. The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall, at the time of issuing a registration receipt under 61-3-322, assign the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer a distinctive license plate number and, unless the license plates must be specially ordered from the department, deliver to the applicant, depending on the type of motor vehicle that was registered, a set of two license plates or one license plate, each of which must bear the assigned distinctive number.

History: En. Subd. 3, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 53-116(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

Duties of Department of Justice, 61-3-101.

61-3-332. Standard license plates. (1) In addition to special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, and fleet license plates authorized under this chapter, a separate series of standard license plates must be issued for motor vehicles, quadricycles, travel trailers, trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers registered in this state or offered for sale by a vehicle dealer licensed in this state. Standard license plates issued to licensed vehicle dealers must be readily distinguishable from license plates issued to vehicles owned by other persons.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-479 and subsections (2)(b), (3)(b), and (3)(c) of this section, all standard license plates for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must bear a distinctive marking, as determined by the department, and be furnished by the department. In years when standard license plates are not reissued for a vehicle, the department shall provide a registration decal that must be affixed to the rear license plate of the vehicle.

(b) For light vehicles that are permanently registered as provided in 61-3-562 and motor vehicles described in 61-3-303(10) that are permanently registered, the department shall provide a distinctive registration decal indicating that the motor vehicle is permanently registered. The registration decal must be affixed to the rear license plate of the permanently registered motor vehicle.

(c) For a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is permanently registered as provided in 61-3-313(2), the department may use the word or an abbreviation for the word "permanent" on the plate in lieu of issuing a registration decal for the plate.

(3) (a) (i) New license plates issued under 61-3-303 or this section must be a standard license plate design first issued in 1989 or later or current collegiate or generic specialty license plate designs. For the purposes of this subsection (3), all military, veteran, and amateur radio license plates and any license plate with a wheelchair design, excluding collegiate or generic specialty plates with a wheelchair design, are treated as standard license plates.

(ii) (A) Except as provided in subsection (3)(a)(ii)(B), license plates issued on or after January 1, 2010, must be replaced with new license plates if, upon renewal of registration under 61-3-312, the license plates are 5 or more years old or will become older than 5 years during the registration period. New license plates must be issued in accordance with the implementation schedule adopted by the department under 61-14-101.

(B) License plates issued to a disabled veteran with a combat-related disability must be replaced with new license plates if, on renewal of registration under 61-3-312, the license plates are 10 or more years old or will become older than 10 years during the registration period.

(iii) A vehicle owner may elect to keep the same license plate number from license plates issued before January 1, 2010, when replacement of those plates is required under this subsection.

(b) A motor vehicle that is registered for a 13-month to a 24-month period, as provided in 61-3-311, may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire registration period.

(c) A light vehicle described in subsection (2)(b) or a motor home that is permanently registered may display the license plate and plate design in effect at the time of registration for the entire period that the light vehicle or motor home is permanently registered.

(d) The provisions of this subsection (3) do not apply to a travel trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(e) The requirements of this subsection (3) apply to collegiate license plates authorized under 61-3-461 through 61-3-468, generic specialty license plates authorized under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, commemorative centennial license plates authorized under 61-3-448, and special military or veteran license plates authorized under 61-3-458.

(4) (a) All license plates must be metal and treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department. The word "Montana" must be placed on each license plate and, except for license plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on each standard license plate.

(b) Plates for semitrailers, travel trailers, pole trailers, trailers with a declared weight of 6,000 pounds or more, and motor vehicles, other than motorcycles and quadricycles, must be 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length.

(c) Plates for motorcycles and quadricycles must be 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length.

(d) The department shall issue plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length for trailers with a declared weight of less than 6,000 pounds unless a person registering a trailer with a declared weight of less than 6,000 pounds requests plates that are 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. A person registering a trailer shall pay all applicable fees for the plates chosen.

(5) The distinctive registration numbers for standard license plates must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. Except for special license plates, collegiate license plates, generic specialty license plates, fleet license plates, and standard license plates that are 4 inches wide and 7 inches in length, the distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the motor vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of the numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

(6) For the use of exempt motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers and motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are exempt from the registration fee as provided in 61-3-321, in addition to the markings provided in this section, standard license plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and a year number may not be indicated on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

(b) For motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are owned by the counties, municipalities, and special districts, as defined in 18-8-202, organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and that are used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty and for motor vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees in the line of duty, there must be placed on the standard license plates assigned, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and special districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these standard license plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the license plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the plates.

(7) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows: Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers by the department as they are formed, beginning with the number 57.

(8) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463 and generic specialty license plates authorized in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a design that distinguishes each separate plate series. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of standard license plates, must be placed or mounted on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, with the registration decal affixed to the rear license plate of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(9) (a) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a disability parking permit under 49-4-301 may and a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license operating a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart as provided in 61-5-122 must, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a disability license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability.

(b) If the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is permanently registered, the owner of the motor vehicle shall provide, upon request of a person authorized to enforce disability parking laws or ordinances in this or any state, evidence of continued eligibility to use the license plate in the form of a valid disability parking permit issued to or renewed by the vehicle owner under 49-4-304 and 49-4-305.

(c) A person with a permanent condition, as provided in 49-4-301(2)(b), who has been issued a disability license plate upon written application, as provided in this subsection (9), is not required to reapply upon reregistration of the motor vehicle.

(10) The provisions of this section do not apply to a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered as part of a fleet, as defined in 61-3-712, and that is subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 75, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 1757, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1757, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 492, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106(part); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 674, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 632, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 81, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 109, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 79, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 570, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 11, 16, 17(2), Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 2, 4, Ch. 507, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 275, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 390, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Creation of new counties, Title 7, ch. 2, part 22.
Tax-exempt property categories, 15-6-201.
Disability parking permits, Title 49, ch. 4, part 3.

Disability parking permit or placard to be provided and displayed, 49-4-304.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Duties of Department of Justice, 61-3-101.
Retention of special plates, 61-3-446.
Collegiate license plates, 61-3-463.

61-3-333. Replacing license plates or decals. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if one or both license plates registered to a motor vehicle, quadricycle, travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer or the registration decal for the motor vehicle, quadricycle, travel trailer, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is mutilated or destroyed, the owner of the registered motor vehicle or trailer may obtain a set of replacement license plates, a replacement license plate, or a duplicate registration decal upon filing a sworn declaration stating that fact and payment of a fee of $10.

(2) If the owner requests that the replacement license plate or plates bear the same background and license plate number as the plate or plates that were destroyed or mutilated, the duplicate license plate or plates may be issued upon payment of a fee of $15.

(3) The fees imposed in this section must be deposited in the account established in 61-6-158, except that $2 of the fee imposed in subsection (1) must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Subd. 7, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.6, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-120; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.

61-3-334. Transfer of ownership of motor vehicle — duty to remove plates. Upon the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, the transferor shall immediately remove the license plates from the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 53-145; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 65, 152, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Penalty for violations, 61-3-601.

61-3-335. Transfer of license plates to another motor vehicle. (1) A person may request the transfer of license plates removed from a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer under 61-3-334 to another motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer acquired or owned by the same person. The use of the license plates may not be legalized until proper transfer of license plates has been made.

(2) License plates may be transferred pursuant to this section without transferring ownership of the first motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(3) Upon transfer of the license plates, the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer from which the license plates were transferred expires.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 127, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-146; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

61-3-336. Recycling license plates. The department is authorized to promote the recycling of used or outdated license plates for the metal content and may enter into contractual agreements with nonprofit organizations for the collection of used or outdated license plates and for their transportation to a central recycling point.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Public contracts generally, Title 18, ch. 1.
Motor vehicle recycling and disposal, Title 75, ch. 10, part 5.

61-3-337. Permanently registered motor homes — plate restriction. The following series of license plates may not be used for purposes of permanent registration of a motor home:

(1) Montana national guard license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(b);
(2) reserve armed forces license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(c); and
(3) amateur radio operator license plates issued under 61-3-422.

History: En. Secs. 154, 155, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 393, L. 2013.

61-3-338. Contract for manufacture and distribution of license plates. (1) The department shall contract with Montana correctional enterprises for the manufacture, inventory control, storage, and distribution of all license plates issued under this chapter.

(2) The contract must include provisions for payment to Montana correctional enterprises after license plates are shipped to the department, the office of a county treasurer, an authorized agent, or a vehicle owner, as directed by the department or at the request of a vehicle owner.

(3) The contract must require Montana correctional enterprises to provide the necessary interface to support the automated ordering of license plates by the department or as directed by the department and to acquire and use readability software to assess any new plate design or manufactured plate and, if requested by the department, any previously issued license plates.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-339 and 61-3-340 reserved.

61-3-341. Lost certificates. In the event any certificate of registration shall be lost, mutilated, or become illegible, the person to whom the same shall have been issued shall immediately make application for and may obtain a duplicate thereof, upon furnishing satisfactory information to the department of such facts and upon payment of a fee of $2.

History: En. Subd. 6, Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1758.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 121, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-113(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.
Replacement of certificates of title, 61-3-204.

61-3-342. Repealed. Sec. 125, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 138, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-109.3; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

61-3-343 reserved.

61-3-344. Out-of-state USS Montana vehicles — compliance with local state safety and emissions laws. A vehicle displaying USS Montana specialty license plates and located for more than 1 month in the state that contains the home port of the USS Montana is subject to that state's laws regarding safety inspections and emissions testing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 663, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-3-345. Motor vehicle computer system. The department shall maintain a statewide online computer system to be used to title and register motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers, campers, motorboats, personal watercraft, sailboats, snowmobiles, and off-highway vehicles.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-346. County motor vehicle computer committee. (1) There is a county motor vehicle computer committee.

(2) The committee is allocated to the department of justice for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121.

(3) The committee consists of:

(a) an employee of the department of justice information technology division, appointed by the attorney general;
(b) two county treasurers, appointed by the Montana county treasurers association; and
(c) two employees of the department of justice, appointed by the attorney general.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 313, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 26, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-3-347. Duties of county motor vehicle computer committee. (1) The county motor vehicle computer committee shall:

(a) establish the requirements and specifications for the county motor vehicle computer system to be used by county treasurers and the department of justice to register and renew the registration of motor vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, and off-highway vehicles;

(b) approve the purchase of computer equipment, including peripherals, to be used for the registration and renewal of the registration of motor vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, and off-highway vehicles;

(c) approve the procedures for the development of the county motor vehicle computer system provided for in 61-3-345 and for training in the use of that system.

(2) As used in this section, "computer system" means the county motor vehicle application system and does not imply that the department of administration is responsible for establishing policy and operating and maintaining the county motor vehicle computer system.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 27, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Part 4
Special Registration

Part Cross-References

Confidential license plates and registrations, Title 44, ch. 4, part 2.

61-3-401. Definition of personalized license plates. Personalized license plates, as used in 61-3-401 through 61-3-406, are license plates that are specially produced and display a specific combination of letters or numbers, or both, expressly requested by the owner of the passenger motor vehicle.

History: En. 53-150 by Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-150; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-402. Personalized license plates authorized. A person who is the registered owner of a motor vehicle, truck, motor home, trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, or other vehicle for the owner's personal use may upon payment of the fee prescribed in 61-3-406 apply to the department for personalized license plates in the manner prescribed in 61-3-405. The plates must be affixed to the vehicle for which registration is sought in lieu of the license plates numbered as provided in 61-3-332.

History: En. 53-148 by Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-148; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Camper defined, 61-1-101.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor home defined, 61-1-101.
Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.

61-3-403. Color and design of personalized license plates — exception. Except as provided in 61-3-407 and 61-3-466, the personalized license plates must be the same color and design as standard license plates and must consist of numbers or letters, or any combination of numbers or letters, not exceeding eight positions and not less than two positions, provided that there are no conflicts with existing standard or special license plate series under this title. A registration decal must be displayed on personalized license plates as provided in 61-3-332.

History: En. 53-149 by Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-149; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Collegiate license plates, 61-3-463.

61-3-404. Personalized license plates restricted to registered owner. Personalized license plates may be issued only to the registered owner of the motor vehicle upon which they are displayed.

History: En. 53-151 by Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-151; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Certificates of title, Title 61, ch. 3, part 2.

61-3-405. Application for personalized plates. An applicant for personalized license plates or renewal of such plates in subsequent years pursuant to 61-3-401 through 61-3-406 shall file an application therefor in the form and by the date the department requires, indicating thereon the combination of letters or numbers, or both, requested as a registration number. There shall be no duplication of registration numbers, and the department may refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers, or both, that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or which are misleading or a duplication of license plates provided for elsewhere in this title.

History: En. 53-152 by Sec. 5, Ch. 257, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-152; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Personalized collegiate license plates, 61-3-466.

61-3-406. Fees for personalized plates — disposition. (1) In addition to all other fees and taxes imposed by law, the applicant for a personalized license plate shall pay a fee of $25 for the original personalized license plate and a fee of $10 for each transfer or renewal of the personalized license plate.

(2) The revenue derived from the fee must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. 53-153 by Sec. 6, Ch. 257, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-153; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.

61-3-407. Personalized license plates for disabled — military, veteran, and generic specialty license plates. Subject to the provisions of 61-3-405 and 61-3-406, an application for standard license plates bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability under 61-3-332(9), special military or veteran license plates under 61-3-458, or generic specialty license plates under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 may be combined with an application for personalized plates. The application must be made on a form supplied by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 233, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

61-3-408 through 61-3-410 reserved.

61-3-411. Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated solely as collector's item. (1) An owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is more than 30 years old and that is used solely as a collector's item and is not used for general transportation purposes may file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must state:

(a) the name and address of the owner;

(b) the name and address of the person from whom the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer was purchased;

(c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer; and

(d) that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes.

(2) Upon receipt of the application for registration and payment of the registration fees, including fees in lieu of tax, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the manner specified in 61-3-303 and, unless the applicant chooses to exercise an option allowed in 61-3-412, shall deliver to the applicant:

(a) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1933 or earlier, two license plates bearing the inscription "Pioneer—Montana" and the registration number; or

(b) for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in 1934 or later and more than 30 years old, two license plates bearing the inscription "Vintage—Montana" and the registration number.

(3) The year of issuance may not be shown on the plates.

(4) Annual renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered under this section is not required, and the registration is valid as long as the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is in existence and owned by the initial registrant.

History: **En. 53-106.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.1; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 5, 10, Ch. 458, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 197, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 295, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.
Vehicles subject to staggered registration, 61-3-313.

61-3-412. Display of original Montana license plates or collector reproduction license plates on collector's item and general transportation collector's item motor vehicles — definitions — validation. (1) As used in 61-3-413 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Collector reproduction license plate" means a license that is a reproduction of the original license plate issued according to the provisions of 61-3-331; section 53-116, R.C.M. 1947; section 1759.1, R.C.M. 1935; or section 1759, R.C.M. 1921; whichever section was effective during the year of the manufacture of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer on which the license plate is authorized to be displayed. To qualify as a collector reproduction license plate, the reproduction plate must be made of metal, must be the same size and color as the original license plate, and must have the same design, including any embossed or raised letters or numbers, as the original license plate.

(b) "Original Montana license plate" means a license plate issued according to the provisions of 61-3-331; section 53-116, R.C.M. 1947; section 1759.1, R.C.M. 1935; or section 1759, R.C.M. 1921; whichever section was effective during the year of the manufacture of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer on which the license plate is authorized to be displayed.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of 61-3-332, the department shall authorize the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered as provided in 61-3-411 or 61-3-413 to display original Montana license plates or collector reproduction license plates, with validation as required in 61-3-413 or subsection (4) of this section, after:

(a) payment of the fee required in subsection (6);

(b) inspection by a highway patrol officer of the original Montana license plate or collector reproduction license plate to be displayed on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and, upon payment of a $5 fee, receipt of the highway patrol officer's certification that the officer has determined that:

(i) the license plate is legible and meets the requirements of subsection (1); and

(ii) in the case of a license plate intended for use on a general transportation collector's item, the license plate is visible at night;

(c) receipt of an application by the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided for in 61-3-411 or 61-3-413; and

(d) in the case of a general transportation collector's item application, certification from the department that a duplicate license plate number does not exist among currently issued license plates.

(3) The owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer manufactured in the year 1948, 1949, or 1950 may display a single original Montana license plate that is affixed to the rear of the vehicle. The original Montana license plate must be legible and must bear the year that matches the year in which the vehicle was manufactured.

(4) If the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer meets the requirements of subsection (2), the department shall:

(a) register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as prescribed in 61-3-303; and

(b) issue a validating decal inscribed with:

(i) a unique number; and

(ii) the letter:

(A) "P" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in 61-3-411(2)(a); or

(B) "V" to designate motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers described in 61-3-411(2)(b).

(5) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall permanently affix the validating decal to the windshield of the collector's item motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer or, if a windshield does not exist, to another prominent and visible position on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(6) The owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall pay to the department with the application required under this section a one-time special collector's item motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer license fee of $20.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 168, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 295, L. 2019.

61-3-413. Registration of motor vehicle as general transportation collector's item — definition — permanent registration required. (1) For the purposes of 61-3-412 and this section, a "general transportation collector's item" is a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is 25 years old or older and that is used for general transportation purposes.

(2) An owner of a general transportation collector's item who wishes to display original Montana license plates or collector reproduction license plates on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer shall file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must state:

(a) the name and address of the owner;

(b) the year and number of the license plate the applicant wishes to use; and

(c) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(3) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a general transportation collector's item that will display an original Montana license plate, the department shall compare the number of the license plate that the applicant intends to use with the license plate numbers assigned to currently registered motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers. The department may reject an application if the number the applicant intends to use matches a number that is assigned to a currently registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. If the department approves the application, the department shall file the application and register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the manner specified in 61-3-101.

(4) Upon receipt of an application for registration of a general transportation collector's item that will display a collector reproduction license plate, the department shall determine a distinctive license plate number to be assigned to the collector reproduction license plate. The department may:

(a) issue a new license plate number following the requirements for issuing distinctive license plate numbers under 61-3-331;

(b) issue a new personalized license plate number under 61-3-401 through 61-3-406; or

(c) at the request of the owner, transfer a license plate number that is already assigned to the general transportation collector's item or another motor vehicle owned by the owner of the general transportation collector's item.

(5) The general transportation collector's item owner may take the license plate number issued pursuant to subsection (4) and purchase a collector reproduction license plate from any source.

(6) The one-time application fee for a collector reproduction license plate under subsection (4) is $50. The fee must be deposited as follows:

(a) $25 must be deposited into the state special revenue account to partially fund highway patrol officers' salaries established in 44-1-504; and

(b) $25 must be deposited into the motor vehicle division administration account established in 61-3-112.

(7) Once an application is approved, appropriate fees are paid, and the requirements provided in 61-3-412(2) are met, an owner of a general transportation collector's item shall permanently register the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer as provided in 61-3-562 and shall display on the motor vehicle's, trailer's, semitrailer's, or pole trailer's license plate a decal indicating that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has been permanently registered.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 295, L. 2019.

61-3-414. Special motorcycle license plates for military personnel, veterans, and spouses — department to design — fees — disposition. (1) The department shall design and issue motorcycle license plates for all special military and veteran license plates provided for in 61-3-458.

(2) A person requesting a special military or veteran motorcycle license plate under this section:

(a) is subject to the eligibility requirements for the license plate as provided in 61-3-458; and

(b) shall pay to the county treasurer or an authorized agent:

(i) an administrative fee of $5 upon issuance of the motorcycle license plate, to be deposited in the county general fund;

(ii) a $5 license plate fee, to be deposited in the state general fund; and

(iii) a $10 veterans' cemetery fee, to be deposited as provided in 61-3-459(2).

(3) Upon request, after paying the fees imposed under subsection (2)(b) and any applicable vehicle registration fees under this chapter, the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may retain the special license plates issued to the deceased veteran, subject to the eligibility requirements for the plate as provided in 61-3-458(4).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-3-415. Special motorcycle license plates — department to design — fees — distribution. (1) A Montana resident who is the owner of a motorcycle or quadricycle titled and registered under this chapter and who pays the fee required under subsection (2) may be issued a special motorcycle license plate bearing a design created by the department. The design must recognize the efforts of one or more Montana-based nonprofit organizations that grant wishes to chronically or critically ill Montana children.

(2) A person requesting a special motorcycle license plate under this section shall pay to the county treasurer or an authorized agent:

(a) an administrative fee of $5 upon issuance of the special license plate, to be deposited in the county general fund;

(b) a $5 license plate fee; and

(c) a donation fee of $20.

(3) The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall remit the fees required in subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) to the department. For each special plate issued, the department shall deposit $5 in the state general fund and $20 in an account in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department as provided in subsection (4).

(4) The department shall use the money deposited in the account in the state special revenue fund as provided in subsection (3) to provide grants, using criteria established by the department, to Montana-based nonprofit organizations that grant wishes to Montana children who are chronically or critically ill.

(5) The account in the state special revenue fund provided for in subsection (3) is statutorily appropriated to the department, as provided in 17-7-502.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 533, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-3-416 through 61-3-420 reserved.

61-3-421. Amateur radio operators — special license plate. A resident of this state who holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license and operator's license, "conditional" or higher class, issued by the federal communications commission of the United States, upon proof of ownership of the amateur radio station license and operator's license, may be issued a set of license plates displaying the official amateur radio call letters of the owner as assigned to the owner by the federal communications commission for a light vehicle or motor home owned by and registered to the resident. The plates must be renewed as provided in 61-3-312.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 635, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Vehicles subject to staggered registration, 61-3-313.

61-3-422. Issuance — application — additional fee. The department shall issue license plates with the official amateur radio call letters to an amateur radio operator upon:

(1) application showing proof that the applicant is the owner and holder of an amateur radio station license and operator's license;

(2) compliance with the state laws relating to titling and registration of light vehicles and motor homes;

(3) payment, or proof of payment, of all other fees and taxes applicable to the light vehicle or motor home; and

(4) payment of a $5 additional fee.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.3; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 635, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.

61-3-423. Limit of one identical pair of plates for each operator. The department may not issue more than one identical pair of lettered license plates for any licensed amateur radio station in any one licensing period.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 62, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.4; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-3-424. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 393, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.5; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 280, L. 2003.

61-3-425. Special plates — sale or transfer of auto — revocation or expiration of radio license. The license plates issued under 61-3-422 may be renewed as long as the amateur radio license is in force under the federal communications commission and the special license issued hereunder is in force. If the official amateur radio license is revoked or expires for any reason, the license plates must be removed immediately by the owner of the light vehicle or motor home, and the owner shall obtain standard license plates numbered as provided in 61-3-332. If the light vehicle or motor home is sold or otherwise transferred, the owner and holder of valid official amateur radio station and operator's licenses may transfer the amateur radio license plates to another light vehicle or motor home owned by the holder as provided in 61-3-335. On the revocation or expiration of the amateur radio station and operator's licenses, the license plates issued under 61-3-422 must be returned and surrendered to the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 2, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 62, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 127, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.6; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 635, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Transfer of license plates to another motor vehicle, 61-3-335.

61-3-426. Combined license plates. (1) An application for license plates for amateur radio operators may be combined with an application for the special license plates issued under 61-3-458(4) or with an application for disability license plates issued to a person with a disability who complies with the provisions in 61-3-332(9).

(2) Issuance of combined license plates is subject to 61-3-422.

(3) The combined license plates must display the official amateur radio call letters of the owner as assigned to the owner by the federal communications commission. The plates must also display the design or decal provided for in 61-3-332(9) or 61-3-458(4).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 79, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 337, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 233, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 390, L. 2021.

61-3-427 through 61-3-430 reserved.

61-3-431. Special mobile equipment — exemption from registration and payment of fees and charges — identification decal — temporary registration permit — publicly owned special mobile equipment. (1) A person, firm, partnership, or corporation that owns, leases, or rents special mobile equipment, a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or a log loader and that occasionally moves that equipment on, over, or across the highways of the state is not subject to registration of that equipment or required to pay the fees and charges provided for in 61-4-301 through 61-4-308 or Title 61, chapter 10, part 2. Prior to movement on the highways:

(a) each piece of equipment must display an equipment identification decal or a dealer's license plate attached to the equipment, except for motor vehicles or trailers designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land that are brought into Montana for demonstration purposes;

(b) each motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land that is brought into Montana for demonstration purposes must have a temporary registration permit conspicuously displayed.

(2) (a) Annual application for the identification decal must be made to the county treasurer before any piece of equipment is moved on the highways. Application must be made on a form furnished by the department, together with the payment of a fee of $5. The equipment for which a special mobile equipment decal or for which a temporary registration permit is sought is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes. The person, firm, partnership, or corporation applying for the decal shall report the application for the identification decal to the department of revenue. For migratory personal property described in 15-24-301(1), the personal property taxes assessed against the special mobile equipment, a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or a log loader must be paid before an identification decal may be issued. The fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund, except that $25 of the temporary registration permit fee must be remitted to the department of transportation.

(b) Application must be made for a temporary registration permit as provided in subsection (1)(b). The application must be made to the county treasurer or to an authorized agent before the piece of equipment is moved on Montana highways. Application for the temporary registration permit must be made on a form furnished by the department and must be accompanied by the payment of a fee of $50, in addition to the fee required under 61-3-224.

(3) The identification decal expires on December 31 of each year. If the expired identification decal is displayed, an owner of special mobile equipment, a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or a log loader registered under the provisions of this section is entitled to operate the equipment between January 1 and February 15 following expiration without displaying the identification decal or receipt of the current year.

(4) (a) The temporary registration permit expires 40 days after its issuance. Special mobile equipment, a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or a log loader that remains in the state past the expiration of the permit is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes, starting on the first day following expiration of the permit.

(b) If the holder of a temporary registration permit leases or sells the piece of equipment during the term that is covered by the permit, the permit is no longer valid and the special mobile equipment, motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or log loader is subject to the assessment of personal property taxes, starting on the first day of the lease or the date of the sale.

(5) Publicly owned special mobile equipment, motor vehicles or trailers designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land, or log loaders and implements of husbandry used exclusively by an owner in the conduct of the owner's farming operations are exempt from this section.

History: En. Sec. 7-207, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1971; Sec. 32-3707, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 53-639.1 by Sec. 124, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 388, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-639.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 170, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

When property is assessed, Title 15, ch. 8, part 2.
Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.

61-3-432. Exemptions of vehicles not capable of operation on highways. Track-type tractors, other track mounted machinery and equipment, road rollers, and other similar equipment and machinery which cannot be self-propelled or towed upon the highways of this state and which must be transported by some type of hauling unit, are not subject to this chapter, chapter 4, part 1, chapter 6, chapter 10, part 2, or chapter 12, part 4.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1963; Sec. 53-638.1, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 53-639.2 by Sec. 187, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-639.2; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 39, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 409, L. 1999.**

61-3-433. Issuance of identification decal and receipt — contents. The county treasurer shall issue to an applicant for an equipment identification decal a single decal with a distinguishing number and a receipt for the fee collected. The receipt must contain the name and address of the applicant, the number of the decal issued, the serial number of the equipment, and a brief description of that equipment.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 183, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-640; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 596, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

61-3-434. Attaching receipt to equipment — inspection. The receipt shall be carried in a suitable container attached to the equipment or immediately available for inspection of any peace officer or highway patrol officer.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 183, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 53-641; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.
Jurisdiction of highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.

61-3-435. Certificate of title — transaction summary receipt — prima facie evidence. A certificate of title or transaction summary receipt issued by, or under the authority of, the department is prima facie evidence of the facts appearing on the certificate of title or transaction summary receipt.

History: **En. Sec. 45, Ch. 477, L. 2003.**

61-3-436 through 61-3-440 reserved.

61-3-441. Renumbered 61-3-524. Code Commissioner, 1979.

61-3-442. Renumbered 61-3-525. Code Commissioner, 1979.

61-3-443. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 159, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1983.**

61-3-444. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

61-3-445. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 441, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

61-3-446. Retention of special license plates. If during a registration year the holder of special license plates issued under 61-3-332(8) or generic specialty license plates issued as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 disposes of the motor vehicle to which the plates are affixed, the holder may retain the plates and transfer them to another vehicle under 61-3-335.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 441, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 159, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 246, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 596, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Transfer of license plates to another motor vehicle, 61-3-335.

61-3-447. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

61-3-448. Commemorative centennial license plates — continued use authorized. Subject to the limitation set forth in 61-3-332, a person who owned and displayed commemorative centennial license plates on a motor vehicle on or before June 30, 1996, may continue to display the commemorative centennial plates on the motor vehicle as long as the motor vehicle is registered under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-3-449 and 61-3-450 reserved.

61-3-451. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.8; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 614, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1985; Sec. 10-2-301, MCA 1983; redes. 61-3-451 by Sec. 7, Ch. 159, L. 1985.

61-3-452. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 399, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 215, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.9; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1985; Sec. 10-2-302, MCA 1983; redes. 61-3-452 by Sec. 7, Ch. 159, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 539, L. 2001.

61-3-453. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 399, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 215, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.10; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 159, L. 1985; Sec. 10-2-303, MCA 1983; redes. 61-3-453 by Sec. 7, Ch. 159, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 539, L. 2001.

61-3-454. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 399, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 539, L. 2001.

61-3-455. Violation a misdemeanor. A person who violates 61-3-414, 61-3-458, or 61-3-460 or who knowingly and wrongfully attempts to secure license plates under 61-3-332, 61-3-414, 61-3-458, or 61-3-460 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 215, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-106.11; Sec. 10-2-304, MCA 1983; redes. 61-3-455 by Sec. 7, Ch. 159, L. 1985; amd. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 500, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 2009.

61-3-456. Registration of motor vehicle owned and operated by Montana resident on active military duty stationed outside Montana. (1) As an incentive for military service, an owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer who is a Montana resident, including a national guard or reserve member, and who is stationed outside Montana may file with the department an application for the registration of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The application must be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The application must state:

(a) the name and address of the owner;

(b) the make, the gross weight, the year and number of the model, and the manufacturer's identification number and serial number of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer; and

(c) that the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is owned and operated by a Montana resident who meets the qualifications of subsection (1) and is on active military duty and stationed outside Montana.

(2) The registration fee for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered under subsection (1) is as provided in 61-3-321.

(3) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered under this section is not subject to:

(a) the taxes or fees described in 61-3-303(6);

(b) the fee in lieu of tax under 61-3-529 or the registration fee under 61-3-321(2) or 61-3-562; or

(c) any of the fees provided in part 5 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

61-3-457. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 399, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 79, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 337, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

61-3-458. Special plates for military personnel, veterans, spouses, and gold star families. (1) (a) Active military personnel, veterans, or the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may be issued special military or veteran license plates as provided in this section.

(b) As provided in subsection (3), family members of a member of the U.S. armed forces who are eligible for or who have received:

(i) a "Gold Star Lapel Button" may be issued special gold star family license plates; and

(ii) a "Next-of-Kin of Deceased Personnel Lapel Button" may be issued special next-of-kin license plates.

(c) Subject to the provisions of 61-3-332 and except as otherwise provided in this chapter, special license plates issued pursuant to this section must be numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set and must be properly displayed as provided in 61-3-301. Special military, veteran, gold star family, or next-of-kin license plates may not be issued for a quadricycle, semitrailer, or pole trailer. Special military, veteran, gold star family, or next-of-kin license plates bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability may be issued to a person who meets the qualifications under 61-3-332(9) and this section. Special military or veteran license plates may be issued for a motorcycle pursuant to 61-3-414.

(2) (a) Upon application, after paying all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees and special license plate fees and providing an official certificate from the applicant's unit commander verifying the individual's eligibility and authorizing the department to issue the plates to the individual, eligible military personnel may be issued one set of special military license plates as provided in this subsection (2).

(b) A member of the Montana national guard who is a state resident may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

(c) A member of the reserve armed forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates according to the member's branch of service verified in the application with a design or decal displaying one of the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); or United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department when the member becomes ineligible.

(d) An active member of the regular armed forces of the United States who is a state resident may be issued special license plates inscribed with a symbol signifying the United States army, United States marine corps, United States navy, United States air force, United States space force, or United States coast guard, according to the member's branch of service verified in the application. However, the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible.

(3) Upon application, after paying all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees and special license plate fees and:

(a) providing a department of defense form 3 (DD Form 3) or its successor or documents showing the person's eligibility for a "Gold Star Lapel Button", a family member of a member of the U.S. armed services who is eligible to receive or who has received a "Gold Star Lapel Button" as provided in Public Law 534, 89th congress, may be issued special license plates inscribed with a blue-bordered gold star with the words "Gold Star Family" inscribed beneath the registration number; or

(b) providing a department of defense form 1300 (DD Form 1300) or its successor or documents showing the person's eligibility for a "Next-of-Kin of Deceased Personnel Lapel Button", a family member of a member of the U.S. armed services who is eligible to receive or who has received a "Next-of-Kin of Deceased Personnel Lapel Button" as provided in 32

CFR 578.63 may be issued special next-of-kin license plates inscribed as determined by the department in consultation with the Montana department of military affairs.

(4) (a) Upon application, after presenting proper identification and a department of defense form 214 (DD-214) or its successor or documents showing an other-than-dishonorable discharge or a reenlistment verifying the applicant's eligibility and paying the veterans' cemetery fee specified in 61-3-459 and all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of 61-3-460, an eligible veteran must be issued any set and more than one set of the special license plates provided for in this subsection (4) that the member requests and is eligible to receive.

(b) A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the letters "DV", which entitles the veteran to the parking privileges allowed to a person with a special parking permit issued under Title 49, chapter 4, part 3, if the veteran:

(i) has been awarded the purple heart and has been rated by the U.S. department of veterans affairs as 50% or more disabled because of a service-connected injury; or

(ii) is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability.

(c) A veteran who has been awarded the purple heart may be issued special license plates with the purple heart decal displaying the words "combat wounded".

(d) A veteran who was captured and held prisoner by the military force of a foreign nation may be issued special license plates with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of war" or an abbreviation that the department considers appropriate.

(e) If the veteran was a member of the United States armed forces on December 7, 1941, and during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) was on station at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu or was offshore from Pearl Harbor at a distance of not more than 3 miles, the veteran may be issued special license plates designed to show that the veteran is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack.

(f) A person who is a member of the legion of valor may be issued special plates displaying a design or decal depicting the recognized legion of valor medallion.

(g) A veteran may be issued special license plates displaying the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States marine corps, United States navy, United States air force, United States space force, or United States coast guard, according to the veteran's service record verified in the application.

(h) A member or a former member of the Montana national guard eligible to receive a military retirement may be issued special license plates displaying the Montana national guard insignia and the words "National Guard veteran".

(i) A veteran who qualifies under subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c) may be issued special combination license plates displaying the letters "DV" and displaying a purple heart decal with the words "combat wounded". A person who receives the combination plates is entitled to the same parking privileges as provided in subsection (4)(b).

(5) Upon request, after paying the veterans' cemetery fee provided in 61-3-459 and all applicable vehicle registration fees under this chapter, subject to the provisions of 61-3-460, the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may retain the special license plates issued to the deceased veteran, except the special "DV" plates provided for under subsection (4)(b) or the combination plates provided for in subsection (4)(i).

(6) For purposes of this section, "veteran" has the meaning provided in 10-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 59, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 233, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 303, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 303, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle registration fee and veterans' cemetery fee waivers, 61-3-460.

61-3-459. Veterans' cemetery fee for special veteran license plates — disposition. (1) Except as provided in 61-3-460, an applicant for special veteran license plates provided for under 61-3-458(4) shall pay $10 for each set issued, renewed, or transferred, in addition to any other taxes or fees applicable under this chapter.

(2) Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund and transferred as provided in 15-1-122 to the special revenue account for state veterans' cemeteries established in 10-2-603.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 233, L. 2009.

61-3-460. Motor vehicle registration fee and veterans' cemetery fee waivers. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person eligible under subsection (2) is exempt from the veterans' cemetery fee provided in 61-3-459 for two sets of special veteran license plates and all motor vehicle registration fees imposed by this chapter for two motor vehicles that are not used for commercial purposes.

(2) The following persons are eligible for the waiver provided in subsection (1):

(a) a veteran who was a prisoner of war who presents official documentation from the U.S. department of defense verifying the veteran's status, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried;

(b) a veteran who is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. department of veterans affairs, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried;

(c) a veteran determined by the U.S. department of veterans affairs to be 50% or more disabled because of a service-connected injury and who has been awarded the purple heart, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. department of veterans affairs and the veteran's military service record issued by the U.S. department of defense, or the veteran's surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, except that the veteran or the surviving spouse shall pay the veterans' cemetery fee as provided for in 61-3-459;

(d) the surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, of a military service member killed while on active duty as verified in official documentation issued by the U.S. department of defense; and

(e) the surviving spouse, if the spouse has not remarried, of a military service member or veteran who died of a service-connected injury or disability as determined by and verified in official documentation from the U.S. department of veterans affairs.

(3) A veteran who meets the eligibility criteria in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c) may apply the fee waiver provided in subsection (1) to any of the special license plates provided for in 61-3-458(4) as long as the veteran also meets the eligibility criteria for the specific special license plate the veteran requests.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 103, 244, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2019.

61-3-461. Short title. Sections 61-3-461 through 61-3-468 may be cited as the "Montana Collegiate License Plates Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

61-3-462. Definitions. As used in 61-3-461 through 61-3-468, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Collegiate license plates" means license plates bearing the colors, numerals, letters, and insignia provided in 61-3-463 and issued as provided in 61-3-464 through 61-3-466.

(2) "Institution" means:

(a) a unit of the Montana university system as designated in 20-25-201;

(b) a community college district as defined in 20-15-101; or

(c) a college or university located in Montana and accredited by a national or regional accrediting association for institutions of higher learning to grant baccalaureate degrees.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

61-3-463. Collegiate license plates. (1) Subject to the provisions of 61-3-332(8) and the requirement that collegiate license plates must have a white reflectorized background, the department shall design, cause to be manufactured, and issue collegiate license plates as provided in 61-3-464 through 61-3-466.

(2) After consultation with each institution, the department shall prescribe the color and insignia to be displayed on the collegiate license plates for each institution.

(3) In addition to each institution's distinctive color and insignia provided in subsection (2), each collegiate license plate must:

(a) be imprinted consecutively with distinctive numerals from 1 through 99999, capital letters A through Z, or a combination of numerals and letters; and

(b) bear a registration decal as provided in 61-3-332.

(4) The department shall determine the minimum and maximum number of characters, including both numerals and letters, on the collegiate license plates.

(5) An issue of collegiate license plates may not be ordered or manufactured for any individual institution unless at least 400 sets of plates are ordered and prepaid.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 247, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-3-464. Application for collegiate license plates. An applicant for collegiate license plates or renewal of collegiate license plates pursuant to 61-3-465 shall apply in the form and by the date the department requires. An application for a collegiate license plate may be combined with an application for a license plate bearing a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability if the applicant meets the qualifications under 61-3-332(9).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-465. Issuance — application — additional fee — disposition. (1) The department shall issue or renew collegiate license plates upon receipt of an application that shows:

(a) compliance with 61-3-303, 61-3-311, and 61-3-312; and

(b) payment to the county treasurer or an authorized agent of:

(i) an initial application and manufacturing fee of $10, when required; and

(ii) an annual scholarship donation of $30 for the benefit of the institution named in the application.

(2) Once each month, the county treasurer shall, as provided in 15-1-504, transfer to the state the total of the amounts collected for:

(a) the initial application and manufacturing fee for deposit in the state general fund; and

(b) scholarship donations provided for in subsection (1)(b)(ii), along with a schedule showing the number of collegiate license plates issued and the total donations received for the benefit of each institution.

(3) Once each month, an amount equal to the total donations credited to that institution and transferred to the state by the county treasurers during the preceding month must be distributed to the student academic scholarship fund or foundation of each institution.

(4) The amount of $8 of the fee imposed in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be deposited in the account established in 61-6-158, and $2 of the fee must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 172, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-466. Personalized collegiate license plates. (1) Subject to the provisions of 61-3-405 and 61-3-406, an application for collegiate license plates may be combined with an application for personalized plates.

(2) An application for personalized collegiate license plates must be made on a form supplied by the department.

(3) Personalized collegiate license plates must bear the distinctive color and insignia as provided in 61-3-463.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 661, L. 1989.

61-3-467. Authorization to receive and transmit donations. As provided in 61-3-465 and notwithstanding any other provisions of Title 7, Title 17, or this title:

(1) the county treasurer or an authorized agent must receive the annual scholarship donations provided for in 61-3-465 and transmit the donations to the state as provided in 15-1-504 or 61-3-116; and

(2) the appropriate agency shall accept the annual scholarship donations and once each month distribute the accumulated proceeds to the beneficiary institutions specified by and according to the totals contained in the county treasurers' and authorized agents' reports.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 661, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-468. Collegiate license plates — continued use with institution's former name authorized. Subject to the limitation set forth in 61-3-332, a person who owns and displays on the person's motor vehicle, collegiate license plates that bear the name of an institution that has been renamed by its governing body or as part of the Montana university system reorganization may continue to display on the vehicle the license plate bearing the former name of the institution as long as the motor vehicle is registered under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-3-469 through 61-3-471 reserved.

61-3-472. Short title. Sections 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 may be cited as the "Montana Generic Specialty License Plate Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 2001.

61-3-473. Definitions. As used in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Generic specialty license plate" means a license plate that bears the name, identifying phrase, or graphic of a sponsor, approved by the department, and that is issued by the department.

(2) "Governmental body" means a tribal government, state agency, local government, school district, or other political subdivision within this state.

(3) "Organization" means an association, corporation, group, or other entity:

(a) recognized by the internal revenue service as tax-exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3); and

(b) that does not have as its primary focus sectarian activities, including but not limited to activities aimed at promoting the adoption of one or more religious or political viewpoints.

(4) "Sponsor" means the governmental body, the governmental body's successor, or an organization approved by the department to promote the sale and issuance of a generic specialty license plate.

(5) "Tribal government" means the officially recognized government of an Indian tribe, nation, or other organized Indian group or community located in Montana that is exercising self-government powers and that is recognized as being eligible for services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 223, L. 2005.

61-3-474. Responsibility for design of generic specialty license plates — numbering — approval — registration decal — listing of plate sponsors. (1) The department shall:

(a) design the background and general format of generic specialty license plates, including ensuring the readability of a generic specialty license plate design;

(b) in consultation with the department of corrections, determine which license plate processing system is the most efficient and versatile manufacturing method for the production of generic specialty license plates; and

(c) use a numbering system for generic specialty license plates that is distinctive from the numbering system required under 61-3-332 or used for collegiate license plates.

(2) All sponsor names, identifying phrases, and graphics intended for use on generic specialty license plates must be approved by the department prior to the manufacture of the plates.

(3) Upon the issuance of generic specialty license plates, a registration decal must be affixed to the license plates as provided in 61-3-332.

(4) The department shall maintain a list of the sponsors that have been approved to promote the sale and issuance of generic specialty license plates, the initial distribution date for sale of each sponsored generic specialty license plate, and the donation fee established by the sponsor for each sponsored generic specialty license plate. The department shall, upon request, make copies of this list available to interested members of the public.

(5) The department shall revoke its previous approval of a sponsor's generic specialty license plate sponsorship if:

(a) the sponsor fails to comply with the provisions of 61-3-472 through 61-3-481;

(b) within 3 years of the date of the initial distribution of the sponsored generic specialty license plate, fewer than 400 sets of a sponsor's generic specialty license plate have been sold or renewed;

(c) any time after 3 years following the date of the initial distribution of the sponsored generic specialty license plate, there are fewer than 400 sets of the sponsored generic specialty license plate with a current registration; or

(d) the department has reliable information that the sponsor is no longer qualified for sponsorship under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481.

(6) (a) Upon revocation of a sponsor's generic specialty license plate sponsorship status, the issuance and sale of the sponsor's generic specialty license plates must be terminated.

(b) A person who owns a motor vehicle displaying valid generic specialty license plates affiliated with a sponsor whose sponsorship status has been revoked may continue to display those generic specialty license plates on the person's motor vehicle until the motor vehicle's registration is renewed.

(c) Following revocation of a sponsor's sponsorship status, the department may not issue replacements or duplicates of generic specialty license plates affiliated with that sponsor.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 295, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-3-475. Qualifications and approval of organization as sponsor. (1) To qualify as a sponsor of a generic specialty license plate, an organization shall:

(a) apply, through the organization's officers, for sponsorship on a form or in a format prescribed by the department;

(b) submit proof of good standing if the organization is required to be registered with the office of the secretary of state;

(c) designate one of its members as the organization's generic specialty license plate liaison. The liaison is responsible for all communications with the department regarding the organization's sponsorship of generic specialty license plates and shall file the liaison's name, address, and telephone number with the department.

(d) specify in its application the donation fee proposed by the organization for initial purchase of the organization's generic specialty license plate and for renewal of the organization's generic specialty license plate if the fee is required on renewal;

(e) submit to the department proof that is acceptable to the department that:

(i) the organization is a nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization shall submit proof of its tax-exempt status annually to the department. Acceptable forms of proof include the current year's federal income tax filing documents or a Montana secretary of state tax identification number.

(ii) the organization has held its tax-exempt status for at least 1 year prior to submitting its application to sponsor a generic specialty license plate;

(iii) the primary purpose of the organization, except for an organization of military service veterans, is service to the community through specific programs that promote improving public health, education, or general welfare;

(iv) the organization's name, identifying phrase, or graphic that will be placed on the generic specialty license plate does not:

(A) invoke connotations offensive to good taste and decency;

(B) promote, advertise, or endorse a product, brand, or service provided for sale;

(C) infringe or otherwise violate a trademark, trade name, service mark, copyright, or other proprietary or property right; or

(D) obscure the generic specialty license plate letters or numbers that the department assigns as provided in 61-3-474(1)(c);

(v) the organization's headquarters or base of operations is in this state or, if the organization is a chapter or branch of an international, national, or regional organization, the chapter or branch is in good standing and has authorization in writing from the parent organization to use the name and graphic of the parent organization;

(vi) the organization is a Montana entity, including proof of the organization's Montana address, contact information for the organization's board of directors, and the organization's account with a Montana banking institution. The organization shall submit the information required under this subsection (1)(e)(vi) annually.

(vii) the organization has an active telephone number listed under its name in at least one published Montana directory; and

(viii) at least 75% of the donation fees collected will be spent in Montana.

(2) The department may require a statement under oath from the officers of the organization that the organization is authorized to use the name, identifying phrase, and graphic submitted for display on a generic specialty license plate and that no infringement or violation of any property right exists, together with an agreement to defend and hold harmless the state of Montana, its employees, or its agents for any liability as a result of an infringement or violation of any property right.

(3) The department's approval or rejection of an organization's application for generic specialty license plate sponsorship must be based on the requirements provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481. The department shall state in writing the reasons for its rejection of an organization's application.

(4) An organization may apply for and be approved to sponsor only one generic specialty license plate design at any time. Once a minimum 4-year period has expired, an organization may apply to the department for approval of a new generic specialty license plate design along with submission of the fee required under 61-3-478(1).

(5) If the department approves the organization's new generic specialty license plate design, issuance and renewal of the previously approved generic specialty license plate must be discontinued, effective on the date of the initial distribution of the newly approved generic specialty license plate design.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 295, L. 2019.

61-3-476. Qualification and approval of governmental body as sponsor. (1) To qualify for sponsorship of a generic specialty license plate, a governmental body shall:

(a) apply for sponsorship through the executive body of a tribal government, the state agency director or department head, the commission or council of a local government or political subdivision, or the board of trustees of a school district on a form or in a format approved by the department;

(b) if the governmental body is a state agency, identify the statutory authority under which it is relying to seek sponsorship of a generic specialty license plate and specify the account in which any generic specialty license plate donations must be placed;

(c) designate one of its officers or employees as the governmental body's generic specialty license plate liaison. The liaison is responsible for all communications with the department regarding the governmental body's sponsorship of generic specialty license plates and shall file the liaison's name, address, and telephone number with the department.

(2) The legislature may designate a governmental body to be a successor to a governmental body that is terminated. The successor governmental body shall succeed to all rights and responsibilities of the original sponsor.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 223, L. 2005.

61-3-477. Generic specialty license plate liaison — responsibilities. (1) Upon the department's approval of an organization's or a governmental body's proposed sponsorship of a generic specialty license plate, the generic specialty license plate liaison designated under 61-3-475(1)(c) and 61-3-476(1)(c) shall submit to the department the sponsor's name, identifying phrase, and graphic that will appear on the generic specialty license plate.

(2) The generic specialty license plate liaison shall:

(a) verify and approve in writing the prototype or mockup of the sponsor's generic specialty license plate before it may be manufactured or issued by the department; and

(b) confirm, in writing, the donation fee established by the sponsor for initial purchase of the sponsor's generic specialty license plate and for renewal of the sponsor's generic specialty license plate if the fee is required on renewal.

(3) Once a sponsor's generic specialty license plate has been approved for manufacture and distribution, the donation fee established by the sponsor and confirmed by the liaison may not be changed unless a new plate design is authorized in accordance with 61-3-475.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 223, L. 2005.

61-3-478. Generic specialty license plate sponsor fee. (1) Upon approval of an organization's application to sponsor a generic specialty license plate and before a sponsor's generic specialty license plates may be manufactured, the department shall assess and the sponsor shall pay a $4,000 fee to the department of corrections Montana correctional enterprises prison industries training program enterprise fund. The fee covers the initial costs incurred by Montana correctional enterprises in producing the generic specialty license plates for the sponsor.

(2) The fee imposed in subsection (1) must be deposited in the Montana correctional enterprises license plate production operating account provided for in 53-30-134.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 312, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

61-3-479. Issuance of generic specialty license plates — qualifications. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the department shall issue:

(i) a set of generic specialty license plates to a person who applies for a particular style of generic specialty license plates and pays the donation fee established by the plate sponsor and the administrative fee required in 61-3-480; or

(ii) a set of USS Montana specialty license plates to a person serving or retired from serving aboard the USS Montana who applies and pays the donation fee established by the plate sponsor and the administrative fee required in 61-3-480.

(b) If the sponsor of a generic specialty license plate is not listed on the county collection report published by the state and required under 15-1-504 as of the initial distribution date for the sale of the sponsor's plates, the department shall require the sponsor to collect the initial donation fee from, and issue a special certificate of registration to, a person who is eligible to receive the sponsor's generic specialty license plates. The person shall present the special certificate of registration upon application for the generic specialty license plates.

(2) A set of generic specialty license plates may be issued for any motor vehicle except a motorcycle or a quadricycle.

(3) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 and 61-3-562, a person who receives generic specialty license plates is subject to the same rules and laws as those that govern standard license plates.

(b) Except as provided in 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 and 61-3-562, the department is subject to the same rules and laws that govern the issuance of standard license plates.

(c) Generic specialty license plates issued under 61-3-472 through 61-3-481 are not subject to any maximum issuance or use limitation that may be imposed on standard license plates.

(4) A person may combine an application for a generic specialty license plate with an application for a license plate with a design bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of a person with a disability as provided in 61-3-332(9).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 663, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 663, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-3-480. Fees for generic specialty license plates — disposition. (1) In addition to the other fees and taxes imposed by law, an eligible person who applies for a generic specialty license plate shall pay an administrative fee of $20 and, except as provided in 61-3-479(1)(b), the donation fee specified by the sponsor.

(2) The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall, upon receipt of the fees:

(a) deposit $5 of the $20 administrative fee in the county general fund;

(b) notwithstanding any other provisions of Title 7, Title 17, or this title and unless otherwise provided in 61-3-479(1)(b), accept the donation fee paid by the plate purchaser; and

(c) as provided in 15-1-504, once each month, transmit to the state for distribution:

(i) $10 of the $20 administrative fee for deposit in the account provided in 61-6-158;

(ii) $5 of the administrative fee to the state general fund; and

(iii) all donation fees provided for in subsections (1) and (3), along with a schedule showing the number and type of generic specialty license plates issued and total donations received for the benefit of each sponsor of a generic specialty license plate issued or renewed, to each respective sponsor.

(3) If the donation fee is required by a sponsor upon renewal of generic specialty license plates, the fee must be paid to the county treasurer or an authorized agent upon renewal of registration and transmitted to the state as prescribed in subsection (2).

(4) Once each month, the state shall distribute to the generic specialty license plate liaison designated by a sponsor under 61-3-475(1)(c) or 61-3-476(1)(c) an amount equal to the total donations credited to that sponsor and transferred to the department of revenue by the county treasurers during the preceding month.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 223, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 196, L. 2013.

61-3-481. Generic specialty license plates — restrictions on use. (1) Generic specialty license plates may be issued by the department in conjunction with the registration of any motor vehicle except a motorcycle or a quadricycle. The department may not issue generic specialty license plates without the motor vehicle having been registered.

(2) Generic specialty license plates may be used only as the official license plates for a motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 402, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 392, L. 2007.

Part 5
Taxes, Fees, and Fees in Lieu of Taxes

Part Cross-References

Taxation, Title 15.
Custom combiner's fee, 61-10-130.

61-3-501. When motor vehicle taxes and fees are due. (1) Motor vehicle registration fees, local option vehicle taxes or fees, fees in lieu of tax, and other fees must be paid on the date of registration or renewal of registration of the motor vehicle.

(2) Motor vehicle registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and local option taxes or fees imposed under this chapter do not accrue after ownership of the motor vehicle has been transferred to another person.

(3) (a) For purposes of this chapter and except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the age of a motor vehicle is determined by subtracting the manufacturer's designated model year from the current calendar year.

(b) If the purchase year of a motor home precedes the designated model year of the motor home and the motor home is originally titled in Montana, then the purchase year is considered the model year for calculating the age of the motor home.

History: (1), (2)En. 53-159 by Sec. 6, Ch. 74, L. 1975; Sec. 53-159, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 53-161 by Sec. 8, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 183, L. 1977; Sec. 53-161, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-159, 53-161; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle assessment, 15-8-202.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Registration period, 61-3-314.
Motor vehicle dealers, Title 61, ch. 4, part 1.

61-3-502. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 515, L. 1999.

History: (1) thru (5)En. Sec. 6-215, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 74, L. 1975; Sec. 32-3315, R.C.M. 1947; (6)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; Sec. 53-114, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 219, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1973; Sec. 53-626, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3319 by Sec. 183, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3319, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315(part), 32-3319(part), 53-114(6); amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 657, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 585, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 15, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 81, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 248, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-3-503. Assessment — definition. (1) (a) Except as provided in 61-3-520, light vehicles subject to a local option motor vehicle tax under 61-3-537 must be assessed the tax as of the first day of the registration period, using the depreciated value of the manufacturer's suggested retail price as determined in subsection (2).

(b) If the depreciated value is less than $500, the department shall value the motor vehicle at $500.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(c) and (2)(d), the depreciated value for the taxation of light vehicles is computed by multiplying the manufacturer's suggested retail price by a percentage multiplier based on the type and age of the light vehicle determined from the following table:

Age of Vehicle		Type of Vehicle		
(in years)	Automobile	Truck	Van	Sport Utility
-1	100%	100%	100%	100%
0	90	96	93	98
1	80	91	86	94
2	69	86	78	90
3	58	80	69	84
4	49	73	60	76
5	41	66	52	67
6	33	57	45	57
7	26	49	38	48
8	21	43	32	39
9	17	37	27	33
10	14	31	22	29
11	12	26	18	25
12	10	22	15	22
13	09	18	13	21
14	09	15	11	19
15	09	13	09	17
16	09	12	09	15

(b) The age for the light vehicle is determined under 61-3-501.

(c) If the value of the light vehicle determined under subsection (2)(a) is $500 or less, the value of the light vehicle is $500 and the value must remain at that amount as long as the light vehicle is registered.

(d) The depreciated value of a light vehicle that is 17 years old or older is computed by depreciating the value obtained for the vehicle at 16 years old, as determined under subsection (2)(a), by 10% a year until a minimum value of $500 is attained. The value must remain at that amount as long as the light vehicle is registered.

(3) (a) For the purposes of this section, "manufacturer's suggested retail price" means the price suggested by the manufacturer for each given type, style, or model of light vehicle produced and first made available for retail sale by the manufacturer.

(b) The manufacturer's suggested retail price is based on standard equipment of a light vehicle and does not contain price additions or deductions for optional accessories.

(c) When a manufacturer's suggested retail price is unavailable for a motor vehicle, the department shall determine an alternative valuation for the motor vehicle.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; Sec. 53-114, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 9, Ch. 74, L. 1975; Sec. 53-162, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-114(2), (5), 53-162; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 262, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 525, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, Sp. L.**

June 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 580, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 200, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
County Assessor as agent of Department of Revenue, 15-8-102.
Motor vehicle assessment, 15-8-202.
Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

61-3-504. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 515, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-114(4); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 517, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 612, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 209, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 257, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 489, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 580, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 79, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 180, L. 1999.

61-3-505. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-114(7), (8); amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-3-506. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

History: En. 53-160 by Sec. 7, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-160; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 657, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 525, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-507. Exemption. A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is exempt from taxation and registration fees under 15-6-215 or subject to the provisions of 61-3-520 is exempt from all other taxes and fees generally imposed on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer by this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 113, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 214, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 74, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 566, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-114(9); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 525, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-508. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6807(2); amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-3-509. Disposition of fees — responsibility for dishonored payments. (1) Except as otherwise provided in 61-3-321, all registration fees imposed by 61-3-321 on light vehicles, motor homes, motorcycles, quadricycles, buses, motor vehicles having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors for which a license is sought must be remitted to the state as provided in 15-1-504 every 30 days. The payments must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) (a) The department, its authorized agent, or a county treasurer is responsible for pursuing remedies available under 27-1-717 or otherwise provided by law when a check, draft, converted check, electronic funds transfer, or order for the payment of money is dishonored:

(i) for lack of funds or credit;

(ii) because the issuer does not have an account with the entity from which the funds are to be drawn; or

(iii) because the issuer stops payment with the intent to defraud the payee of the check or the payee named on the issued check, draft, converted check, electronic funds transfer, or order for the payment of money.

(b) Once fees have been remitted to the state under this section, adjustments may be made only for dishonored instruments if less than 1 year has elapsed from the date of remittance.

History: En. Subd. 4, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 121, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-117; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 685, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 702, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 416, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 330, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 580, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 170(2), Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Secs. 11, 16(2), Ch. 11, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 250, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer related to taxation, 7-6-2503.
Disposition of tax proceeds, Title 15, ch. 1, part 5.
Snowmobiles — registration and decals — use of certain fees, 23-2-616.

61-3-510. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 639, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 81, L. 1995.

61-3-511. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 604, L. 1991.

61-3-512. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 718, L. 1991.

61-3-513 through 61-3-517 reserved.

61-3-518. Repealed. Sec. 81, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 715, L. 1991.

61-3-519. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 121, L. 1997.

61-3-520. Fees on motor vehicles used exclusively in filming motion pictures or television commercials. (1) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer used exclusively in the filming of motion pictures or television commercials that has been in the state for a period exceeding 180 consecutive days in a calendar year is subject to applicable registration fees, including one-time registration fees for vehicles subject to permanent registration under this chapter as if the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer were not used exclusively for filming motion pictures or television commercials, but the registration fees must be prorated as provided in subsection (2).

(2) (a) The registration fees imposed under subsection (1) must be prorated by dividing the number of days in excess of 180 consecutive days in the calendar year by 365.

(b) Fees on a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer imposed pursuant to this section must be collected as provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 525, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Exemption for motion picture and television commercial property, 15-6-215.
Taxation of motion picture and television commercial property, 15-24-305.

61-3-521. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-522. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 402, L. 1997.

61-3-523. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 712, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 402, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-524. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-645; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 712, L. 1979; Sec. 61-3-441, MCA 1979; redes. 61-3-524 by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

61-3-525. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 414, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-647; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 712, L. 1979; Sec. 61-3-442, MCA 1979; redes. 61-3-525 by Code Commissioner, 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 715, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1993.

61-3-526. Repealed. Sec. 125, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 450, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-527. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 402, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-528. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 496, L. 1997.

61-3-529. Schedule of fees for buses, motor vehicles having rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors — proration — exemption. (1) (a) There is an annual fee in lieu of property tax imposed on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors. The fee is in addition to annual registration fees.

(b) The fee imposed by subsection (1)(a) is not required to be paid by a dealer of buses, trucks, or truck tractors that constitute inventory of the dealership.

(2) Subject to the conditions of subsection (4), the owner of a bus, truck with a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, or truck tractor shall pay a fee in lieu of tax based on the age and manufacturer's rated capacity of the motor vehicle according to the following schedule:

Age of Motor Vehicle	Rated Capacity (in pounds)			
(in years)	16,999 or less	17,000-26,999	27,000-54,999	55,000 or more
1 or less	$117	$167	$284	$375
2	109	150	250	300
3	100	134	220	266
4	92	117	184	242
5	83	109	160	195
6	75	100	134	167
7	66	91	117	147
8	58	83	100	125
9	50	75	92	109
10	41	58	79	92
11-12	33	50	67	76
13-14	28	37	52	61
15-16	25	30	38	47
17-18	18	26	29	36
19-20	13	19	22	26
21 or more	10	12	16	20

(3) The age of the motor vehicle must be determined under 61-3-501.

(4) (a) The manufacturer's rated capacity for a bus or truck with a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton is the manufacturer's rated gross vehicle weight.

(b) The manufacturer's rated capacity for a truck tractor is the manufacturer's rated gross combined weight.

(5) Except as provided in 61-3-520, the fee in lieu of tax on a motor vehicle subject to this section that is brought or driven into this state by a nonresident person for hire, compensation, or profit must be prorated as determined and paid under 61-3-701.

(6) The fee in lieu of tax may not be refunded.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Secs. 2, 3, 4, Ch. 500, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-530. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 402, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-531. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 614, L. 1981.

61-3-532. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1981.

61-3-533. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 685, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 702, L. 1985; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985.

61-3-534. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 614, L. 1981.

61-3-535. Motor vehicle registration renewal — reminder notice and renewal by mail. (1) The owner of a motor vehicle subject to renewal of registration under 61-3-312 may renew the registration of a motor vehicle by mail or by electronic methods when the value, age, length, weight, or other criteria used to determine the tax or fee for a particular type of motor vehicle are available to the department by electronic means.

(2) Any mail renewal procedure developed by the department may:

(a) include a procedure to facilitate automated handling of mail renewal, including issuance of replacement plates when required by statute;

(b) include a procedure to verify compliance with 61-6-301 using the system provided in 61-6-157; or

(c) provide for a reminder notice to the owner of a motor vehicle of the requirement to renew the vehicle's registration.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 604, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 580, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 121, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 592, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

61-3-536. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 708, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 702, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, Sp. L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 30, Sp. L. June 1986.

61-3-537. Local option motor vehicle tax. (1) A county may impose a local option motor vehicle tax on motor vehicles subject to the registration fee imposed under 61-3-321(2) or 61-3-562 at a rate of up to 0.7% of the value determined under 61-3-503 or a local flat fee, in addition to the fee imposed under 61-3-321(2) or 61-3-562.

(2) A local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee is payable at the same time and in the same manner as the fee imposed under 61-3-321(2) or 61-3-562. The tax or fee is distributed as follows:

(a) 50% to the county; and

(b) the remaining 50% to the county and the incorporated cities and towns within the county, apportioned on the basis of population. The distribution to a city or town is determined by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of the city or town to the total county population. The distribution to the county is determined by multiplying the amount of money available by the ratio of the population of unincorporated areas within the county to the total county population.

(3) The governing body of a county may impose, revise, or revoke a local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee if the imposition, revision, or revocation of the tax or fee is approved by the electorate of the county. The imposition, revision, or revocation of the tax or fee is effective on January 1 following its approval by the electorate. The county governing body by resolution may provide for the distribution of the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 749, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16(3), Ch. 11, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-538 through 61-3-540 reserved.

61-3-541. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

61-3-542. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 611, L. 1987.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

61-3-543 through 61-3-549 reserved.

61-3-550. Motor vehicle information technology system account. (1) There is a motor vehicle information technology system account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.

(2) (a) Until June 30, 2019, $4 of the fee received by the department pursuant to 61-3-103(8) for a security interest or other lien must be deposited in the account.

(b) Until June 30, 2026, fees received by the department pursuant to 61-3-103(9) and $5 of each fee received under 61-3-203 or 61-3-204 for a certificate of title must be deposited in the account.

(3) The money in the motor vehicle information technology system account must be appropriated by the legislature to the department of justice and must be used by the department for the purpose of:

(a) repaying any indebtedness or loan incurred for the creation of a new information technology system for motor vehicles; or

(b) payment of costs directly incurred in the creation and support of the new motor vehicle information technology system.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 394, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 9, 12(2), Ch. 562, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 610, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 50, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 398, L. 2015.

61-3-551. Terminated. Sec. 39(5), Ch. 15, Sp. L. July 1992.
History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 15, Sp. L. July 1992.

61-3-552 through 61-3-559 reserved.

61-3-560. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 539, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 399, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-561. Repealed. Sec. 240, Ch. 542, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 515, L. 1999.

61-3-562. Permanent registration — transfer of light vehicle ownership — rules. (1) (a) The owner of a light vehicle 11 years old or older subject to the registration fee, as provided in 61-3-321(2), may permanently register the light vehicle upon payment of an $87.50 registration fee, the applicable registration and license fees under 61-3-412, if applicable, the administrative fee and the annual one-time-only donation fee for a generic specialty license plate under 61-3-480 or collegiate license plates under 61-3-465, the fee provided for in 61-3-573 for an electric vehicle or a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, if applicable, and an amount equal to five times the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee on vehicles under 61-3-537 and, as applicable, either:

(i) (A) the original fee and four times the renewal fee for personalized plates; or

(B) five times the renewal fees for personalized plates; or

(ii) if a new set of license plates is not being issued, an insurance verification fee of $5, which must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158.

(b) The following series of license plates may not be used for purposes of permanent registration of a light vehicle:

(i) Montana national guard license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(b);

(ii) reserve armed forces license plates issued under 61-3-458(2)(c); and

(iii) amateur radio operator license plates issued under 61-3-422.

(2) In addition to the fees described in subsection (1), an owner of a truck with a manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton or less that is permanently registered shall pay five times the applicable fees imposed under 61-10-201.

(3) The owner of a motor vehicle that is permanently registered under this section is not subject to additional registration fees or to other motor vehicle registration fees described in this section for as long as the owner owns the vehicle.

(4) The county treasurer shall once each month remit to the state the amounts collected under this section, other than the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee and the fee collected pursuant to 61-3-573, for the purposes of 61-3-321(2) and 61-10-201. The county treasurer shall retain the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee. The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall transmit the fee collected pursuant to 61-3-573 to the state as provided in 15-1-504 for deposit to the credit of the department in the highway restricted account provided for in 15-70-126.

(5) (a) The permanent registration of a light vehicle allowed by this section may not be transferred to a new owner. If the light vehicle is transferred to a new owner, the department shall cancel the light vehicle's permanent registration.

(b) Upon transfer of a light vehicle registered under this section to a new owner, the new owner shall apply for a certificate of title under 61-3-201 and 61-3-216 and register the light vehicle under 61-3-303.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 337, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 280, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 464, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 392, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 562, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 562, L. 2023. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Cross-References

Fund transfers — supplemental benefits for highway patrol officers' retirement account — exceptions, 15-1-122.

61-3-563 through 61-3-569 reserved.

61-3-570. Local option flat fee. (1) A local option flat fee for each light vehicle may be imposed within a county by the board of county commissioners by adoption of a resolution and referral to the electorate. The imposition of the local option flat fee must be approved by the majority of the electorate voting in the election.

(2) The local option flat fee is:

(a) applicable annually for light vehicles that are registered annually; and

(b) a one-time fee for light vehicles registered under 61-3-562.

(3) Fees collected under this section must be distributed as provided in 61-3-537.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

61-3-571. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Class 1 vehicle" means a vehicle having an unladen gross weight of less than 6,000 pounds.

(2) "Class 2 vehicle" means a vehicle having an unladen gross weight of at least 6,000 pounds but not more than 10,000 pounds.

(3) "Class 3 vehicle" means a vehicle having an unladen gross weight of greater than 10,000 pounds but not greater than 26,000 pounds.

(4) "Class 4 vehicle" means a vehicle having an unladen gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds.

(5) (a) "Electric vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(i) is originally equipped with a 100%-electric motor that draws propulsion energy solely from a battery with at least 20 kilowatt hours of capacity that can be recharged from an external source of electricity;

(ii) has at least four wheels; and

(iii) is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a low-speed electric vehicle; or

(ii) a medium-speed electric vehicle.

(6) "Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(a) is originally equipped so that the vehicle draws propulsion from an internal combustion engine and a battery with at least 5 kilowatt hours of capacity that can be recharged from an external source of electricity;

(b) has at least four wheels; and

(c) is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 5, Ch. 164, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Applicability: Section 6, Ch. 164, L. 2023, provided that this section applies to electric vehicles that must be registered or reregistered after June 30, 2023.

61-3-572. Additional electric vehicle registration fees — disposition. In addition to the registration fees required pursuant to the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, at the time of initial and renewal registration for an electric vehicle, there is an additional fee based on the weight of the electric vehicle as provided:

(1) The annual registration fees for electric vehicles other than plug-in hybrid electric vehicles is as follows:

(a) $130 for class 1 vehicles;

(b) $190 for class 2 vehicles;

(c) $340 for class 3 vehicles; and

(d) $1,100 for class 4 vehicles.

(2) The annual registration fees for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles is as follows:

(a) $70 for class 1 vehicles;

(b) $100 for class 2 vehicles;

(c) $210 for class 3 vehicles; and

(d) $700 for class 4 vehicles.

(3) The county treasurer or an authorized agent shall transmit the fees provided for in this section to the state as provided in 15-1-504 for deposit to the credit of the department in the highway restricted account provided for in 15-70-126.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 164, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 5, Ch. 164, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Applicability: Section 6, Ch. 164, L. 2023, provided that this section applies to electric vehicles that must be registered or reregistered after June 30, 2023.

61-3-573. *(Effective January 1, 2024)* **Gross vehicle weight permanent registration fee — electric vehicles — plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.** (1) The permanent registration fee for an electric vehicle is based on unladen gross weight as follows:

(a) for a class 1 vehicle, $260;

(b) for a class 2 vehicle, $380.

(2) The permanent registration fee for a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle is based on gross vehicle weight as follows:

(a) for a class 1 vehicle, $140;

(b) for a class 2 vehicle, $200.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 2023; amd. sec. 4, Ch. 562, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 5, Ch. 562, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective January 1, 2024."

2023 Enactment — Coordination: The enactment of this section by sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 2023, was replaced by sec. 4, Ch. 562, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Part 6
Penalties — Enforcement

61-3-601. Penalty for violations. Except as otherwise provided, a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine not exceeding $500. Nothing in this section prevents the prosecution of a person for an offense committed under any other law.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1755.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-102(part); amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 724, L. 1991.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Registration — license plate required — display, 61-3-301.

61-3-602. Enforcement. It is mandatory upon all police and peace officers of the state, of the counties of the state, and of towns, cities, and villages to carry out the provisions of chapter 4, part 1, and this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 158, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1755.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 53-102(part); amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

Cross-References
Local government — law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.
State — law enforcement, Title 44.

61-3-603. Penalty for alteration or forgery of certificate of ownership or certificate of title — assignment. A person who alters or forges or causes to be altered or forged any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer certificate of ownership or certificate of title or any assignment of a certificate of ownership or certificate of title or who holds or uses any certificate or assignment knowing that the certificate has been altered or forged is guilty of a felony. Upon a conviction of a violation of this section, the offender is subject to a fine of not more than $5,000, to imprisonment for a period of not more than 10 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 113, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1763.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 53-136; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Certificates of title, Title 61, ch. 3, part 2.

61-3-604. Penalty for altering identification number. (1) A person who willfully removes or falsifies an identification number of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or motor vehicle engine is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment in the state prison for a period of not more than 10 years, or both.

(2) Any person or persons, firm, or corporation that sells or offers for sale in this state a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer the original vehicle identification number of which has been destroyed, removed, altered, covered, or defaced, with the exception of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers bearing a state-assigned identification number in accordance with 61-3-107, is punishable by a fine of not less than $200 or more than $500 and by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than 30 days or more than 180 days. Upon a second or subsequent conviction under this subsection, the punishment shall be imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 1 year or more than 5 years or a fine in an amount not to exceed $50,000, or both.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1969; Sec. 53-139.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 113, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1763.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 121, L. 1965; Sec. 53-139, R.C.M 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-139(part), 53-139.1; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 198, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 272, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Obscuring identity of machine, 45-6-326.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.
Sales and distribution of motor vehicles, Title 61, ch. 4.

61-3-605. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 515, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 6-216, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3316; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 585, L. 1987.

61-3-606. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 592, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-646.

61-3-607. Penalty for tampering with odometer or violating odometer statement requirements. (1) It is unlawful for a person to tamper with the odometer of a motor vehicle. It is considered tampering if a person removes, turns back, or changes the reading on the odometer, except when repairing or replacing a defective odometer and setting it anew to show the true mileage, or if a person sells, offers for sale, uses, installs, or causes to be installed any device that causes the odometer to register a mileage reading other than the true mileage for the purpose of deceiving a prospective purchaser. For purposes of this section, the true mileage is that driven by the motor vehicle as registered by the odometer within the manufacturer's designed tolerance.

(2) A person who purposely or knowingly violates the provisions of 61-3-206 or subsection (1) of this section is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment in the state prison for a period of not more than 10 years, or both. If that person is a motor vehicle dealer, the department shall revoke the dealer's license. Action by the department under this subsection must conform to the contested case procedures in Title 2, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 324, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 272, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Unfair trade practices and consumer protection, Title 30, ch. 14.

Transfer of interest, 61-3-201.

Part 7
Registration of Foreign Vehicles

61-3-701. Out-of-state vehicles used in gainful occupation to be registered — reciprocity — decal fee. (1) A person may not operate a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is registered in another jurisdiction on the highways of this state if the vehicle is used for hire, compensation, or profit or if the person is engaged in gainful occupation or business enterprise in the state, including highway work, unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is registered at the office of a county treasurer or an authorized agent of the department. Upon satisfactory evidence of ownership submitted to the county treasurer or the department's authorized agent and the payment of fees in lieu of taxes or registration fees, if appropriate, as required by 61-3-321, 61-3-529, or 61-3-537, the treasurer or authorized agent shall enter the vehicle for registration purposes only on the electronic registry maintained by the department under 61-3-101. One-fourth of the annual fees or taxes due on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer subject to registration under this section must be paid for each calendar quarter or portion of a calendar quarter for the year that the vehicle will be located or operated in Montana.

(2) Upon payment of the fees or taxes, the treasurer or the department's authorized agent shall issue to the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer a registration receipt and a registration decal indicating the calendar quarter and year for which the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is registered. The registration decal must at all times be displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer when operated or driven upon roads and highways of this state during the registration period indicated on the receipt and may not be obstructed from plain view.

(3) The registration receipt does not constitute evidence of ownership but may be used only for registration purposes. A Montana certificate of title may not be issued for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered under this section.

(4) This section is not applicable to:

(a) a motor vehicle covered by a valid and existing reciprocal agreement or declaration entered into under Montana law; or

(b) a motor vehicle that is:

(i) registered in another jurisdiction by an insurance company licensed to conduct business in this state;

(ii) being used by an employee of the insurance company to assist residents of this state with insurance claims; and

(iii) operated on the highways of this state for no more than 90 consecutive days.

(5) In addition to the fees and taxes required for registration, a fee of $10 must be collected when a decal required under subsection (2) is issued. For each $10 fee collected, $8 must be deposited in the account established under 61-6-158 and $2 must be deposited in the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 121, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 126, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 290, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-129; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 140, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 26, Ch.

516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 99, 157, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
Registration, Title 61, ch. 3, part 3.
GVW licensing requirements — exemptions, 61-10-214.

61-3-702. Foreign vehicles to display license plates. All foreign registered and licensed motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must carry in plain sight on the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer the license plates or device from the other state or foreign country.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 121, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 126, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 53-130; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Residents operating motor vehicles — licenses issued by another state forbidden, 61-3-302.
Standard license plates, 61-3-332.

61-3-703. Purpose. Sections 61-3-701 and 61-3-702 are solely for the purpose of taxation, registration, and identification of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers operated in this state that have paid a license fee in another state or foreign country and other than as specifically set forth in 61-3-701 and 61-3-702 may not be construed as a repeal of any laws or parts of laws having to do with the registration or licensing of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers within the state.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 121, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 126, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760.9, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 53-131; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 598, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-704. Penalty. Any person operating a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in violation of the intent and purpose of 61-3-701 or 61-3-702 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $50, confined in the county jail for not more than 30 days, or both.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 121, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 126, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 53-132; amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-3-705 and 61-3-706 reserved.

61-3-707. Health care professional exception. (1) Before a motor vehicle exempted pursuant to 15-6-217 may be operated in Montana, the person responsible for the motor vehicle shall apply for and obtain a window decal from the county treasurer. The fee for the decal is $2, which must be remitted to the state and deposited in the state general fund. The department shall supply the decals to the county treasurers.

(2) An application approved by the department must include a verification from the employer that the person is employed by a Montana health care facility that is located in an area that has been:

(a) designated by the secretary of the federal department of health and human services as a health professional shortage area, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 254(e); or

(b) determined to have a critical shortage of nurses, as provided in 42 U.S.C. 297n(a)(3).

(3) Decals expire each year on December 31 of the year in which issued, and application for renewal of registration must be filed with the county treasurer no later than February 15 of each year. Decals must be color-coded to distinguish the year.

(4) A current window decal must be displayed on the lower right-hand corner of the windshield.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 598, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-3-708. Cooperative or reciprocal registration — filing of insurance — fee. (1) The department may enter into written agreements with agencies of other states to allow for the cooperative or reciprocal state registration of intrastate, interstate, or international motor carriers, private motor carriers, and freight forwarder and broker industries and may authorize the agency of a participating state to:

(a) issue interstate motor carrier registrations, stamps, and permits;
(b) accept filings of insurance, financial responsibility, and orders;
(c) collect and disburse fees;
(d) share and exchange information for audit, reporting, and enforcement purposes; and
(e) perform any other function that the department determines is justified to facilitate the cooperative or reciprocal registration.

(2) (a) The department may impose a fee set by rule on a motor carrier or freight forwarder or broker industry registered under an agreement entered into as provided in this section. The fee must be paid on each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer operated by the motor carrier on the public highways of this state. At the time of initial registration and in each succeeding year at a time set by the department, the motor carrier shall pay the fee to the department.

(b) The department shall remit the fee to the state treasurer for deposit in the state special revenue fund for use by the department for motor carrier safety assistance.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 400, L. 2007.

61-3-709. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-710. Rulemaking authority. The department of transportation may adopt and enforce rules for the administration of cooperative or reciprocal vehicle registration, including the setting of a fee, and for other matters necessary to carry out the provisions of 61-3-708.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-3-711. Declaration of policy. It is the policy of this state to promote and encourage the fullest possible use of its highway system by authorizing the making and execution of reciprocal or proportional registration agreements, arrangements, and declarations with other states, provinces, territories, and countries with respect to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers registered in this and other states, provinces, territories, and countries thus contributing to the economic and social development and growth of this state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-701; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement, Title 61, ch. 10, part 11.

61-3-712. Definitions. As used in 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 the following definitions apply:

(1) "Apportionable motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is used or intended for use in more than one jurisdiction and that is used for the transportation of persons for hire, compensation, or profit or designed or used primarily for the transportation of property.

(2) "Fleet" means one or more apportionable motor vehicles.

(3) "Jurisdiction" means and includes a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a foreign country, and a state or province of a foreign country.

(4) "Legal residence" means a jurisdiction where the person lives or conducts business. This residence need not be coupled with the intent to live or conduct the business there on a permanent basis. The use of the word "residence" in 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 must be confined to the definition given and may not be confused with the word "domicile". This definition of "residence" further recognizes that a person may have several residences, but only one domicile.

(5) "Preceding year" means a period of 12 consecutive months fixed by the department of transportation, which period must be within 18 months immediately preceding the commencement of the registration or license year for which proportional registration is sought. The department in fixing the period shall conform the period to the terms, conditions, and requirements of any applicable agreement or arrangements for the proportional registration of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers.

(6) (a) "Properly registered", as applied to place of registration, means:

(i) the jurisdiction where the person registering the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has the person's legal residence;

(ii) in the case of an apportionable motor vehicle, the jurisdiction in which it is registered if the enterprise in which the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is used has a place of business in the jurisdiction and if the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is most frequently dispatched, garaged, serviced, maintained, operated, or otherwise controlled in or from the place of business and the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has been assigned to the place of business; or

(iii) in the case of an apportionable motor vehicle, the jurisdiction where because of an agreement or arrangement between two or more jurisdictions or pursuant to a declaration the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has been registered as required by that jurisdiction.

(b) In case of doubt or dispute as to the proper place of registration of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, the transportation commission shall make the final determination, but in making the determination, the commission may confer with departments of the other jurisdictions affected.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-702(1), (2), (4) thru (6), (10); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 414, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

61-3-713. Authority of department of transportation. The department of transportation may execute or make arrangements, agreements, or declarations to carry out 61-3-711 through 61-3-733.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 191, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-704; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Highways — legislative policy and intent, 60-1-102.

61-3-714. Authority for reciprocity agreements, provisions, reciprocity standards. The department of transportation may enter into an agreement or arrangement with the duly authorized representatives of other jurisdictions, granting to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers or to owners of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are properly registered or licensed in those jurisdictions and for which evidence of compliance is supplied, benefits, privileges, and exemptions from payment, wholly or partially, of any taxes, fees, or other charges imposed upon those motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers or owners with respect to the operation or ownership of the motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers under the laws of this state. The agreement or arrangement must provide that vehicles properly registered or licensed in this state, when operated upon highways of those other jurisdictions, must receive exemptions, benefits, and privileges of a similar kind or to a similar degree as are extended to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers properly registered or licensed in the jurisdiction when operated in this state. The agreement or arrangement must, in the judgment of the department, be in the best interests and fair and equitable to this state and its citizens determined on the basis and recognition of the benefits that accrue to the economy of this state from the uninterrupted flow of commerce.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 192, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-705; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

61-3-715. Base state registration reciprocity. An agreement or arrangement entered into or a declaration issued under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 may contain provisions authorizing the registration or licensing in another jurisdiction of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers located in or operated from a base in the other jurisdiction for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that would be required to be registered or licensed in this state. The exemptions, benefits, and privileges extended by the agreement, arrangement, or declaration apply to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers when properly licensed or registered in the base jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-706; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-716. Proportional registration of fleet motor vehicles. (1) If a jurisdiction permits or requires the licensing of fleets of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailer, or pole trailers in interstate or combined interstate and intrastate commerce and payment of registration fees, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees on those motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers on an apportionment basis commensurate with and determined by the miles traveled on and the use made of the jurisdiction's highways as compared with the miles traveled on and the use made of other jurisdiction's highways or any other equitable basis of apportionment and if the jurisdiction exempts motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers registered in any other jurisdiction under this apportionment basis from the requirements of full payment of its own registration, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees, then the department may, by agreement, adopt exemptions with respect to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers of these fleets, whether owned by residents or nonresidents of this state and regardless of where they are based. An agreement, under the terms, conditions, or restrictions that the department considers proper, may provide that owners of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers operated in interstate or combined interstate and intrastate commerce in this state be permitted to pay registration, license fees, taxes, or other fixed fees on an apportionment basis commensurate with and determined by the miles traveled on and the use made of the highways of this state as compared with the use made of the highways of other jurisdictions or any other equitable basis of apportionment. This agreement may not authorize or be construed to authorize a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer so registered to be operated in intrastate commerce in this state unless the owner of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer has been granted intrastate authority or rights by the public service commission if a grant is otherwise required by law.

(2) The department of transportation may adopt rules that it considers necessary to carry out and administer this section, and the registration of fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers under 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 is subject to the rights, terms, and conditions granted by or contained in any applicable agreement, arrangement, or declaration made by the department. The department of transportation shall adopt rules providing for a change of registration period for a fleet in a case in which the owner of the fleet requests that the registration period be changed to coincide with the registration period of one or more other fleets in the same ownership.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-707; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

61-3-717. Declarations of extent of reciprocity. In the absence of an agreement or arrangement with another jurisdiction, the department may examine the laws and requirements of the jurisdiction and declare the extent and nature of exemptions, benefits, and privileges to be extended to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers properly registered or licensed in the other jurisdiction or to the owners of the motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are in the judgment of the department in the best interests and fair and equitable to this state and its citizens determined on the basis and recognition of the benefits that accrue to the economy of this state from the uninterrupted flow of commerce.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-708; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-718. Extension of reciprocal privileges to lessees authorized. An agreement or arrangement entered into or a declaration issued under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 may contain provisions under which a leased motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer properly registered by the lessor may be entitled, subject to terms and conditions stated in the agreement, arrangement, or declaration, to the exemptions, benefits, and privileges extended by the agreement, arrangement, or declaration.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-709; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-719. Automatic reciprocity. If an agreement, arrangement, or declaration is not in effect with respect to another jurisdiction as authorized by 61-3-711 through 61-3-733, any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer properly registered or licensed in another jurisdiction and for which evidence of compliance is supplied must receive, when operated in this state, the same exemptions, benefits, and privileges granted by the other jurisdictions to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers properly registered in this state. Reciprocity extended under this section applies to commercial motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers only when engaged exclusively in interstate commerce.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-710; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Motor carriers, Title 69, ch. 12.

61-3-720. Proportional registration not exclusive. Sections 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 relating to proportional registration of fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers may not be construed as requiring any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to be proportionally registered if it is otherwise registered in this state for the operation in which it is engaged, including but not limited to regular registration, temporary registration, or trip permit or registration.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-711; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Special permits, 61-10-121.

61-3-721. Proportional registration of motor fleet vehicles, registration periods, application, fee formula, and payment — permanent registration of trailer and semitrailer fleets — transfer of ownership — transfer of license plates. (1) An owner of one or more fleets may register and license each fleet for operation in this state by filing an application with the department of transportation. The application must contain the information pertinent to motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration that is required by the department of transportation. If an electronic record of title has not been created for or a certificate of title issued for an apportionable vehicle in the fleet, the department of transportation, as an authorized agent of the department of justice, may also process the application for certificate of title for the vehicle as provided in 61-3-203 and 61-3-217.

(2) Except as provided in 61-3-318(1) and subsection (6) of this section, each fleet subject to the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 must be registered for an annual registration period based upon the date that the fleet is first registered in this state.

(3) There are four annual registration periods, each of which begins on the first day of a calendar quarter. As used in this subsection, "calendar quarter" means the period of 3 consecutive months ending March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31. The periods are:

(a) January 1 through March 31 ....1st period
(b) April 1 through June 30 ....2nd period
(c) July 1 through September 30 ....3rd period
(d) October 1 through December 31 ....4th period

(4) Registration of a fleet of apportionable motor vehicles under subsection (2) must be renewed on or before the last day of the month for the designated annual registration period unless a different registration period has been authorized pursuant to 61-3-716(2). The department shall provide for simultaneous registration of multiple fleets of apportionable motor vehicles in common ownership.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), the application for each fleet may be accompanied by a fee payment computed by:

(a) dividing in-state miles by total fleet miles as defined in the applicable agreement, arrangement, or declaration entered into pursuant to 61-3-711 through 61-3-733;

(b) determining the total amount necessary to register each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the fleet for which registration is requested, based on the regular annual registration fees prescribed by 61-3-321 and chapter 10, part 2, and the property taxes that are due on the fleet;

(c) multiplying the sum obtained under subsection (5)(b) by the fraction obtained under subsection (5)(a).

(6) Upon renewal or new registration, each trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer fleet must be permanently registered and assessed a registration fee of $82.50. Each trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in the fleet must be issued a permanent license plate and registration decal.

(7) The fee assessed in subsection (6) is a one-time fee except upon transfer of ownership of a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer.

(8) If the owner of a fleet removes a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer from the fleet, the owner shall surrender the registration and license plate assigned to the trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer to the department of transportation. The owner may not transfer the license plate and registration decal to a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer that is added to the fleet.

(9) Applications submitted with fees may be recomputed by the department of transportation. The department of transportation shall furnish a statement showing the overpayment or balance due.

(10) Applications submitted without fees must be computed by the department of transportation. The department of transportation shall furnish a statement showing the amount of fees due.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-712; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 414, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 101, 159, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

Application for registration, 61-3-303.

61-3-722. Registration and identification of proportionally registered motor vehicles — fees — effect of registration. (1) The department shall register each proportionally registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and issue a license plate or plates, a distinctive registration decal, or other suitable identification device for each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer described in the application upon payment of the appropriate fees and property taxes, as provided by law, for the application and for the license plates, registration decals, or devices issued. A fee of $2 must be paid for each license plate, each registration decal, and each device issued for each proportionally registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. A fee of $5 must be paid for each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer receiving temporary registration as authorized by section 704 of the international registration plan of the American association of motor vehicle administrators, adopted in April 1988. A registration card must be issued for each proportionally registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. The registration card must, in addition to other information required by chapter 3, show the number of the license, registration decal, or other device issued for the proportionally registered motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer and must be carried in the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer at all times.

(2) Fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers registered and identified as fleet motor vehicles are considered fully licensed and registered in this state for any type of movement or operation, except that, in those instances in which a grant of authority is required for intrastate movement or operation, the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer may not be operated in intrastate commerce in this state unless the owner has been granted intrastate authority by the public service commission and unless the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is being operated in conformity with that authority.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-713; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 540, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Purported Amendment: Although sec. 2, Ch. 540, L. 2023, purported to amend this section, the final version of the text remained unamended.

61-3-723. Proportional registration not applicable in a single jurisdiction. The right to the privilege and benefits of proportional registration of fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers extended by 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 or by any contract, agreement, arrangement, or declaration made under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 is subject to the condition that each fleet motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer proportionally registered under the authority of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 must also be proportionally or otherwise properly registered in at least one other jurisdiction during the period for which it is proportionally registered in this state.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-714; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-724. Registration of additional fleet motor vehicles. Motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers acquired by the owner after the commencement of the registration period and subsequently added to a proportionally registered fleet must be proportionally registered by applying the mileage percentage used in the original application for the fleet for the registration period to the regular registration fees due with respect to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for the remainder of the registration period.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-715; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-725. Withdrawal of fleet motor vehicles — procedure, credits, and accounting. (1) If a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is withdrawn from a proportionally registered fleet during the period for which it is registered, the owner of the fleet shall notify the department of transportation of that fact on forms prescribed by the department. The department may require the owner to surrender proportional registration cards and other identification devices that have been issued with respect to that motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. If a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is permanently withdrawn from a proportionally registered fleet because it has been destroyed, sold, or otherwise completely removed from the service of the registrant, the unused portion of the gross vehicle weight fees paid with respect to that motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be credited to the proportional registration account of the owner. This unused portion equals the amount paid with respect to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer when it was first proportionally registered in the registration period, reduced by one-twelfth of the total annual gross vehicle weight fee of the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer for each calendar month and fraction of a month elapsing between the first day of the month of the current period in which the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer was registered and the date the notice of withdrawal is received by the department. This credit must be applied against liability for additional fees due during the registration period or for additional fees due upon audit under 61-3-728. If a credit is less than $5, it may not be made or entered. A credit may not be taken against fees other than those for the registration period and is not subject to refund.

(2) If the owner replaces a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer withdrawn from the fleet at the same time as the withdrawal and the replacement motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is of the same or of a lesser weight category than the one withdrawn, the gross vehicle weight fees are transferable to the replacement motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer. If the transfer is to a smaller motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, a credit may not be given or entered.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-716; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 36, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 414, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 42, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 145, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

GVW license transferable, 61-10-224.

61-3-726. New fleet — estimated mileage. The initial application for proportional registration of a fleet shall state the mileage data with respect to the fleet for the preceding year in this and other jurisdictions. If operations were not conducted with this fleet during the preceding year, the application shall contain a full statement of the proposed method of operation and estimates of annual mileage in this state and other jurisdictions. The department shall determine the in-state and total fleet miles to be used in computing the fee payment for the fleet. The department may evaluate and adjust the estimate in the application if it is not satisfied as to the correctness of the estimate.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-717.

61-3-727. Fleet registration — denial when no reciprocity. The department may refuse to accept proportional registration applications for the registration of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers based in another jurisdiction or owned by residents of another jurisdiction if the department finds that the other jurisdiction does not grant similar registration privileges to fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers based in or owned by residents of this state.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-718; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-728. Preservation of proportional registration records. An owner whose application for proportional registration has been accepted shall preserve the records on which the application is based for a period of 4 years following the year or period upon which the application is based. Upon request of the department, the owner shall make these records available to the department for audit as to accuracy of computations and payments or pay the reasonable costs of an audit at the owner's home office by an appointed representative of the department. The department may make arrangements with agencies of other jurisdictions administering motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration laws for joint audits of the owner.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-719; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-729. Relation to other state laws. The provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 are authority for the registration of fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers upon a proportional registration basis without reference to or application of any other statutes of this state.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-720; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-730. Suspension of reciprocity benefits. The department may suspend or cancel the exemptions, benefits, or privileges granted under 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 to a person who violates any of the conditions or terms of the agreements, arrangements, or declarations or violates the laws of this state relating to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers or rules adopted under those laws.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-721; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 36, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 149, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Traffic regulation, Title 61, ch. 8.
Size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.

61-3-731. Agreements to be written, filed, and available for distribution. All agreements, arrangements, or declarations, or amendments thereto, shall be in writing and shall be filed with the department, and the department shall provide copies for public distribution upon request.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-722.

Cross-References

Public records generally, Title 2, ch. 6, part 10.
Duties of Department, 60-2-202.

61-3-732. Continued validity of existing reciprocity agreements. All reciprocity and proportional registration agreements, arrangements, and declarations relating to motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers in force and effect as of March 7, 1963, continue in force and effect until specifically amended or revoked as provided by law or by the agreements, arrangements, or declarations.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 206, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 53-723; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-733. Laws supplemental to motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration laws. Sections 61-3-711 through 61-3-732 are supplemental to the motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration laws of this state.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 206, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 203, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-724; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-734 and 61-3-735 reserved.

61-3-736. Assessment of proportionally registered interstate motor vehicle fleets — payment of fees required for registration. (1) (a) The department of transportation shall determine the fee for the purpose of imposing the fee in lieu of tax as provided in 61-3-529 on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors and the light vehicle registration fee under 61-3-321(2) on light vehicles in interstate motor vehicle fleets that are proportionally registered under the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733. The fee must be apportioned on the ratio of total miles traveled to in-state miles traveled as prescribed by 61-3-721. The fee in lieu of tax or registration fee on interstate motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer fleets is imposed upon application for proportional registration and must be paid by the persons who own or claim the fleet or in whose possession or control the fleet is at the time of the application.

(b) With respect to an original application for a fleet that has a situs in Montana for the purpose of the fee in lieu of tax or registration fee under this part or any other provision of the laws of Montana, the fee in lieu of tax or registration fee on fleet motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers must be prorated according to the ratio that the remaining number of months in the year bears to the total number of months in the year.

(c) Motor vehicles subject to the light vehicle registration fee as part of a fleet under this subsection (1) are not subject to the local option motor vehicle tax or flat fee imposed under 61-3-537 or 61-3-570.

(2) With respect to a renewal application for a fleet, the fee in lieu of tax and the light vehicle registration fee are imposed for a full year. The department of transportation shall prorate the new fee in lieu of tax in 61-3-529 for motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers that are proportionally registered, as provided in 61-3-721, and whose annual registration period does not coincide with the calendar year.

(3) Motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers contained in a fleet for which current fees have been assessed and paid may not be assessed or charged fees under this section upon presentation to the department of proof of payment of fees for the current registration year. The payment of fleet motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer fees in lieu of tax, light vehicle registration fees, and license fees is a condition precedent to proportional registration or reregistration of an interstate motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer fleet.

(4) All fees collected on motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer fleets under this chapter must be deposited and distributed as provided in 61-3-738.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 500, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-737. Situs in state of proportionally registered fleets — collection of fees.

(1) For the purposes of this part, any motor vehicle previously registered or that has had application for registration made under the provisions of 61-3-711 through 61-3-733 has a situs in Montana for the purposes of the light vehicle registration fee or the fee in lieu of tax.

(2) The department of transportation shall collect the fleet motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and license fees prescribed in this part.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-3-738. Deposit and distribution of fees on proportionally registered fleets. The light vehicle registration fees, fees in lieu of tax, and license fees collected under this part must be deposited with the state treasurer in the highway nonrestricted account provided for in 15-70-125.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 191, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 4
SALES AND DISTRIBUTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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Chapter Cross-References

U.C.C. — sales, Title 30, ch. 2.
Sales, Title 30, ch. 11.
Retail installment sales, Title 31, ch. 1, part 2.

Part 1
Dealers

Part Cross-References

Canceled dealership contracts — repurchase requirements — dealer data, Title 30, ch. 11, part 7.
Dealer defined, 61-1-101.

61-4-101. Types of licenses and terms — common application — bonds — zoning. (1) Except as provided in 61-4-120 and 61-4-125, a person may not engage in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, accepting on consignment, or acting as a broker of a motor vehicle, trailer, travel trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorcycle, quadricycle, motorboat, personal watercraft, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, or special mobile equipment that is not registered in the person's name unless the person is the holder of a license issued by the department under this part.

(2) (a) The department may issue a new dealer's license, a used dealer's license, a broker's license, an auto auction license, or a wholesaler license to any person it determines is qualified to hold the license under the provisions of this section.

(b) A new dealer's license authorizes the holder to sell:

(i) any new motor vehicle, new power sports vehicle, or new trailer that is covered under a franchise agreement between the holder and the manufacturer, importer, or distributor of the line of vehicle or trailer offered for sale; and

(ii) any used motor vehicle, used power sports vehicle, or used trailer.

(c) A used dealer license authorizes the holder to sell any used motor vehicle, used power sports vehicle, or used trailer.

(d) A broker's license authorizes the holder to negotiate the purchase, sale, or exchange of a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer from a dealer or another person upon behalf of a client when the broker does not store, display, or take ownership of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer being purchased, sold, or exchanged.

(e) Except as provided in 61-4-120, an auto auction license authorizes the holder to take possession of a used vehicle owned by another person through consignment, bailment, or any other arrangement and to sell to the highest bidder when all bidders are licensed vehicle dealers, wholesalers, or wrecking facilities.

(f) A wholesaler license authorizes the holder to sell used vehicles to a new or used vehicle dealer, an auto auction, or another wholesaler.

(3) Dealer license expiration dates must be staggered throughout the year.

(4) Subject to the provisions of 61-4-120, 61-4-124, and 61-4-125, a license issued by the department is valid until:

(a) voluntarily returned to the department for surrender and cancellation upon the cessation of the licensee's business operations; or

(b) suspended or revoked for a violation of this chapter or any other laws relating to the sale of motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers.

(5) (a) An applicant for a new dealer's license, a used dealer's license, a broker's license, an auto auction license, or a wholesaler license shall submit a written application to the department. The application must be signed by the applicant and contain a verification by the applicant, under penalty of law, that the information contained in the application is true and correct. Any information provided in the license application process is subject to independent verification by the department or an authorized representative of the department.

(b) After examining a license application and conducting an investigation necessary to verify the information contained in the application and if the department is satisfied that the applicant qualifies for the issuance of a license under the provisions of this chapter, the department may issue the license. The department may refuse, after examination and investigation, to issue a license to an applicant who is not qualified for licensure or whose prior financial or other activities or criminal record, as determined by the department:

(i) poses a threat to the effective regulation of dealers, wholesalers, or auto auctions;

(ii) poses a threat to the public interest of the state; or

(iii) creates a danger of illegal or deceptive practices being used in the conduct of the proposed dealership, wholesaler, or auto auction.

(6) To be qualified for licensure, an applicant shall provide to the department the following information:

(a) the name under which the applicant intends to conduct business and the applicant's name, the street address and, if different, mailing address for the business, and customer identification number;

(b) the name, date of birth, and social security number of any person who:

(i) possesses or will possess an ownership interest in the business for which the license is sought;

(ii) is a corporate officer or the managing member of a business entity applying for the license; or

(iii) is or will be designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business;

(c) for each person subject to the provisions of subsection (6)(b), information concerning whether the person has:

(i) an ownership interest in a vehicle dealership, an auto auction, or a wholesaler business in Montana or any other state and, if so, the name and address of each dealership, auto auction, or wholesaler; and

(ii) been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to, a felony in this or any other jurisdiction and, if so, shall provide a summary of the conduct resulting in the felony charge, including the dates of the conduct and any court proceedings pertaining to the conduct and the name and address of any court in which the matter was heard;

(d) the name, address, and telephone number of the insurance carrier from whom the applicant has acquired general liability insurance, naming the department as a certificate holder of the policy, and the name, address, and telephone number of the local insurance agent for the carrier and the applicant's policy number. The insurance must cover any motor vehicle bearing dealer or demonstrator license plates and any motorboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle displaying a dealer's identification card that is offered for demonstration or loan to a customer or otherwise operated by a customer in the regular course of the applicant's business and must be for a minimum of 1 year;

(e) the geographic location of the physical lot or lots upon which vehicles will be displayed for sale, if applicable, and of a permanent nonresidential building, with no more than three other wholesale, broker, auction, or retail vehicle dealers in the same building or at the same location, that will be maintained to store the actual physical or electronic records resulting from the purchase, sale, trade, or consignment of vehicles for which licensure is sought. An applicant may use more than one location to display vehicles for sale if the maximum distance between each display lot does not exceed 200 feet and if the distance between a display lot and the building in which vehicle sales records are stored does not exceed 1,000 feet.

(f) for each geographic location specified in the application, evidence of the applicant's compliance with applicable local land use planning, zoning, and business permitting requirements, if any. Evidence of compliance may be documented by means of a written verification of compliance signed by the authorized representative of the local land use planning or zoning board or the local business-permitting agency.

(g) a diagram or plat showing the geographic location, lot dimensions, if applicable, and building and sign placement for the applicant's proposed established place of business, along with two or more photographs of the geographic location, building premises, and sign, as prescribed by the department;

(h) if the applicant is seeking a new motor vehicle dealer's license:

(i) the name and address of the manufacturer, importer, or distributor with whom the applicant has a written new motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer franchise or sales agreement, the term of the agreement, and the name and make of all motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers to be handled by the applicant;

(ii) the geographic location or locations, specified in writing, upon which the applicant will provide and maintain a permanent building to display and sell new motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers and offer and maintain a bona fide service department for the repair, service, and maintenance of the motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers; and

(iii) verification that the applicant otherwise meets the requirements of part 2 of this chapter.

(7) If an applicant wants to maintain more than one established place of business, the applicant shall file a separate license application for each proposed place of business and otherwise qualify for licensure at each place separately.

(8) Each application under this section must be accompanied by the following fees:

(a) for a new or used dealer's license, a broker's license, or a wholesaler's license, $30; and

(b) for an auto auction license, the fee provided for in 61-4-120.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(b), an applicant for a dealer's license, broker's license, wholesaler's license, or auto auction license shall also file with the application a bond of $50,000.

(b) An applicant whose business will be restricted to the sale of motorcycles or quadricycles shall file a bond of $15,000. An applicant whose business will be restricted to the sale of motorboats, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, or off-highway vehicles, other than motorcycles originally equipped for use on the highway, shall file a bond of $5,000.

(c) All bonds must be conditioned that the applicant shall conduct the business in accordance with the requirements of the law. All bonds must be approved by the department, must be filed in its office, and must be renewed annually.

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-118(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 443, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 523, L. 1989;

amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 724, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 482, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Highway patrol — general duties of Department of Justice, 44-1-102.
Recreational vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
Exemptions of vehicles not capable of operation on highways, 61-3-432.
Registration — penalties — enforcement, 61-3-602.

61-4-102. Dealer plates — restriction of use — fees. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department shall furnish a dealer licensed under this part with one or more sets of numbered dealer plates in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Dealer plates may not be issued to a new or used dealer whose business is restricted to the sale of motorcycles, power sports vehicles, or trailers.

(3) (a) In addition to the fees required under the provisions of 61-4-101 and 61-4-124, an applicant for a dealer's license shall pay an annual fee of $25 for each set of numbered dealer plates requested and issued.

(b) The number of dealer plates that may be issued to a dealer must be determined as follows:

(i) a dealer is entitled to one set of dealer plates upon the issuance of an original license or a renewed license;

(ii) an applicant qualified for a license renewal is entitled to additional sets of numbered plates based on the following formula:

(A) 5% of the first 100 motor vehicle sales for the previous year; plus

(B) 3% of the next 100 motor vehicle sales for the previous year; plus

(C) 2% of motor vehicle sales in excess of 200 for the previous year; and

(iii) a dealer is entitled to additional sets of dealer plates during a license term as the dealer's sales incrementally meet or exceed the requirements of the formula established in subsection (3)(b)(ii). However, the aggregate number of sets of dealer plates issued to a dealer under this subsection (3)(b)(iii) may not exceed the combined number allowed under subsections (3)(b)(i) and (3)(b)(ii).

(4) (a) A dealer is authorized to use and display dealer plates on a motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, held for bona fide sale by the dealer and that is operated by or under the control of the dealer, the dealer's spouse, officers, or employees.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (4):

(i) the term "officers" includes only the persons listed on the manufacturer's franchise agreement or the importer's distribution agreement and the term "employees" means persons upon whom the dealer has paid social security taxes as a full-time employee; and

(ii) the display of a Monroney label or a buyer's guide label, as required by 61-4-123(2), on a motor vehicle bearing dealer plates is prima facie evidence that the motor vehicle is offered for bona fide sale by the dealer.

(5) Dealer plates may not be used or displayed on motor vehicles used for hire, lease, or rental.

(6) (a) A dealer is accountable for each set of numbered dealer plates issued and, except as provided in subsection (6)(b), shall file an annual report with the department certifying the disposition of each set of dealer plates assigned to the dealer and specifying the name, address, and occupation of the person primarily using each set of plates.

(b) Upon reassignment of one or more sets of dealer plates to another person, within 15 days of the reassignment, the dealer shall notify the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, of the name, address, and occupation of the person to whom the plates were assigned.

History: Ap. p. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1977; Sec. 53-118, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1933;

amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1977; Sec. 53-122, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-118(part), 53-122(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.
Standard license plates, 61-3-332.

61-4-103. Repealed. Sec. 31, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-118(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 443, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 282, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1991.

61-4-104. Record of purchase or sale. (1) (a) A dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction licensed under this part shall keep:

(i) a book or record of the purchases, sales or exchanges, or receipts for the purpose of sale of used vehicles; and

(ii) for each used vehicle, a description of the vehicle, the date of purchase, sale, or consignment of the vehicle, and the name and address of:

(A) the person from whom the dealer or wholesaler acquired the vehicle's ownership or, if consigned, possessory interest in the vehicle;

(B) the person to whom the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction assigned the vehicle; and

(C) a secured party with a perfected security interest in the vehicle to which the dealer's, wholesaler's, or auto auction's interest is subordinate, if any.

(b) If the vehicle is a trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, or special mobile equipment, the record must include the manufacturer's number and other numbers or identification marks that appear on the vehicle.

(c) The vehicle description must also include the vehicle identification number, if any, and must include a statement that a number has been obliterated, defaced, or changed if that has occurred.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction must also have the actual or a readily accessible photocopy, electronic copy, or digital copy of the actual assigned certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin from the owner of each vehicle in which the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction acquires a property interest that transfers ownership of the vehicle to the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction from the time the vehicle is delivered to the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction until it has been disposed of by the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction.

(b) A dealer may offer for sale or may sell or exchange a vehicle without having the assigned certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin if:

(i) the dealer has applied for the title as provided in Title 61, chapter 3, part 2; or

(ii) the vehicle is financed by the dealer as inventory through a financial institution, the financial institution holds the certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin as collateral, and the dealer has a readily accessible photocopy, electronic copy, or digital copy of the certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin.

(3) It is a violation of this part for a dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction to fail to:

(a) take assignment of the certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin for a vehicle acquired by the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction; or

(b) assign the certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin for any vehicle sold in which the dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction has a property interest.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), all records required to be kept in accordance with this section and the odometer disclosure information required to be retained under 61-3-206(5) must be physically located and maintained at or readily accessible within the building referred to in 61-4-101.

(b) A dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction that does not maintain the actual certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin at the building referred to in 61-4-101 shall maintain a readily accessible record of the certificate of ownership, certificate of title, or manufacturer's certificate of origin at the building.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "readily accessible" means available in paper form or in an electronic or digital format.

(5) An authorized representative of the department, upon presentation of the representative's credentials, may inspect and have access to and copy any records required under this chapter.

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-118(4); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 282, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Obscuring identity of machine, 45-6-326.
Certificates of title — transfer of interest — contents, 61-3-201, 61-3-202.
Penalty for altering identification number, 61-3-604.

61-4-105. Criminal penalty — civil penalty imposed by agency. (1) Except as provided in 61-4-143, a person violating the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine in an amount of not less than $250 and not more than $500. For the purposes of this section, every sale of a vehicle in violation of the provisions of this part is a separate offense.

(2) In addition to all other penalties created by this part, the department is authorized to take appropriate enforcement action on its own initiative. Except as provided in 61-4-143, a person violating the provisions of this part may be subject to administrative action, in accordance with the contested case procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, as follows:

(a) a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000 for each violation;

(b) suspension of the dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction license not to exceed 7 days;

(c) revocation of the dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction license; or

(d) any combination of subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c).

History: En. Subd. 5, Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1759.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-118(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 282, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 523, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Dealer defined, 61-1-101.
Recreational vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
Registration — penalties — enforcement, 61-3-602.

61-4-106. Transfer of license. A registered dealer, broker, auto auction, or wholesaler who sells or disposes of the dealer's, broker's, auto auction's, or wholesaler's entire business to another person or seeks to change the applicant's name, ownership interest in the business, corporate officer or managing member of the business entity, or a person designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business shall file with the department a statement containing the name of the registered dealer, broker, auto auction, or wholesaler, the number under which the business is registered, the name of the purchaser, and the location of the place of business sold. Upon the filing of the statement, and a new license application form as originally required under 61-4-101, along with a filing fee of $2, the department shall examine the license application of the purchaser as required under 61-4-101.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1933; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1760, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1955; amd. Sec.

228, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-122(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1940, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.

Registration — exemptions of vehicles not capable of operation on highways, 61-3-432.

61-4-107. Cease and desist order. (1) When the department has reasonable cause to believe, from information furnished to it or from an investigation made by it, that a person is engaged in any business regulated by this part without being licensed as required or if a dealer licensed under this part is conducting an off-premises sale without a permit, as required by 61-4-123(4), it shall immediately issue and serve upon the person, in person or by certified mail, a cease and desist order requiring the person to cease and desist from further engaging in that business or from conducting an off-premises sale without a permit. If the person fails to comply with the order, the department shall file an action in the district court of the county in which the conduct occurred to restrain and enjoin the person from engaging in the business. The court shall proceed in the action as in other actions for injunctions.

(2) When the department has reasonable cause to believe, from an investigation made by it or information furnished to it by a law enforcement officer, that a dealer or wholesaler has been improperly licensed, has used a dealer's license in a manner other than as authorized in this title, has provided a material misstatement of fact in an application for a license, is not qualified as a dealer or wholesaler under the requirements of this title, or has engaged in criminal conduct that renders the dealer or wholesaler unfit for licensure, the department may revoke the dealer's or wholesaler's license.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

61-4-108. Exemptions. (1) This part does not require licensure of, or restrict or prohibit a financial institution, as defined in 32-6-103:

(a) in the selling of collateral repossessed on default of a loan made by the financial institution;

(b) in the conduct of a motor vehicle sales promotion in affiliation with one or more licensed dealers; or

(c) in the conduct of a motor vehicle sales promotion in affiliation with a person regularly engaged in a bona fide vehicle rental business if the purpose of the sale is to dispose of used motor vehicles used in the rental business.

(2) This part does not require licensure of an auctioneer whose business consists primarily of the sale of personal property other than motor vehicles.

(3) This part does not require licensure of a licensed real estate broker or agent lawfully buying, selling, exchanging, taking on consignment, or acting as a broker of mobile homes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 523, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 409, L. 1999.

61-4-109. Privileges incident to license — withdrawal upon certain conditions. (1) The privileges of a dealer licensed under the provisions of this part to use and display a set of dealer plates or a demonstrator plate on a motor vehicle or trailer held for sale by the dealer, to use and display an identification card on a power sports vehicle held for sale, and to issue a temporary registration permit, under the authority of 61-4-111 or 61-4-112, upon the sale of a motor vehicle, a power sports vehicle, or a trailer by the dealer are specifically conditioned on the dealer's satisfaction of the bond requirements of 61-4-101 and the general liability insurance coverage requirements of 61-4-123, without interruption or lapse.

(2) If the department is notified or determines that a dealer's bond or general liability insurance has lapsed or been canceled, all dealer plates, demonstrator plates, and identification cards issued to the dealer are subject to immediate confiscation and the dealer's authority, as an authorized agent, to issue temporary registration permits is subject to immediate withdrawal, upon demand, by the department or by a compliance specialist on behalf of the department. The dealer plates, demonstrator plates, and identification cards may not be returned to the dealer until the bond and general liability insurance requirements have been satisfied.

(3) A dealer whose privileges are withdrawn under this section may otherwise engage in the dealer's business operations during the period of withdrawal.

(4) If the lapse of bond or general liability insurance is not corrected within 30 days, the department may initiate administrative action to suspend or revoke the dealer's license under 61-4-105(2).

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 329, L. 2007.**

61-4-110. Obligation of dealer to pay off liens on motor vehicles accepted in trade, purchase, or consignment — duties of dealer and secured party. (1) (a) If a dealer accepts a motor vehicle in trade or purchase from a customer and there is an outstanding loan balance owing on the traded or purchased motor vehicle, the dealer shall remit payment to the secured party to whom the balance on the traded or purchased motor vehicle is owed in an amount sufficient to satisfy the perfected security interest on the traded or purchased motor vehicle by the earlier of the following dates:

(i) 21 days from the date of acceptance of the motor vehicle in trade; or

(ii) 15 days from the date of the receipt by the dealer of payment in full from the sale of the traded motor vehicle.

(b) If a dealer accepts a motor vehicle from an owner for sale upon consignment and there is an outstanding loan balance owing on the consigned motor vehicle, the dealer shall remit payment to the secured party to whom the balance on the consigned motor vehicle is owed in an amount sufficient to satisfy the perfected security interest on the consigned motor vehicle within 15 days from the date of the receipt by the dealer of payment in full for sale of the consigned motor vehicle.

(2) A secured party who has been paid in full by a dealer in accordance with the terms of this section shall forward to the department a properly executed release within:

(a) 15 business days after the business day on which the funds are received when the funds are in cash, cashier's check, certified check, teller's check, or other certified source of funds;

(b) 18 business days after the business day on which the funds are received when the funds are in the form of a check drawn on a local originating depository institution; or

(c) 21 business days after the business day on which the funds are received when the funds are in the form of a check drawn on a nonlocal originating depository institution.

(3) For purposes of this section, "business day" means a weekday, excluding any weekday upon which a legal holiday falls.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 143, L. 2019.**

61-4-111. Used vehicles — transfer to and from dealers. (1) Except as provided in 61-4-124(6), a dealer or wholesaler who intends to resell a used motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer and who operates the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer only for demonstration purposes:

(a) is exempt from registration under 23-2-515, 23-2-616, 23-2-804, or 61-3-302(3) when applying for a certificate of title; and

(b) may transfer or receive ownership of a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer by use of a dealer reassignment section on a certificate of title. However, when the allotted number of dealer reassignment sections on a certificate of title has been completed, ownership of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer may not be transferred until an application for a certificate of title has been submitted by the dealer or an authorized agent to an authorized agent or the department and a new certificate of title has been issued.

(2) Upon the transfer of a used motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer to a person other than a dealer or wholesaler, a temporary registration permit may be issued under 61-3-224 to the person to whom the used motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer was transferred if the dealer is an authorized agent, as defined in 61-1-101. In addition, the following acts are required of the dealer on or before the times set forth in this subsection:

(a) Within 30 calendar days following the date of delivery of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer or within 120 calendar days if a temporary registration permit is issued pursuant to 61-3-303(4)(b), the dealer shall forward to an authorized agent or to the county treasurer of the county where the owner of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer is domiciled:

(i) the assigned certificate of title or, if a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer has not been issued in this state, a copy of the then-current registration receipt or certificate in the dealer's possession; and

(ii) an application for a certificate of title executed by the new owner in accordance with the provisions of 61-3-216 and 61-3-220.

(b) Transmission of the documents by the dealer to the county treasurer or an authorized agent may be accomplished either by personal delivery, by first-class mail, or by electronic means, as authorized by the department.

(c) If the dealer is unable to forward the certificate of title or, if applicable, registration receipt within the time set forth in subsection (2)(a), the dealer is subject to the provisions of 61-4-119.

(3) Upon compliance by the dealer with the requirements in this section, title to the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer is considered to have passed to the purchaser as of the date of the delivery of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer to the purchaser by the dealer, and the dealer has no further liability or responsibility with respect to the processing of registration.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 138, L. 1971; amd. Sec 2, Ch. 399, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 53-109.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 104, 160, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 435, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 389, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
New registration required for transferred vehicle, 61-3-317.
Expiration of registration on transfer of ownership of vehicle, 61-3-334.
Time for payment of fees, 61-10-222.

61-4-112. New motor vehicles — transfers by dealers. (1) When a dealer transfers a new motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer to a purchaser or other recipient, the dealer shall, within 30 calendar days following the date of delivery of the new motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer forward to an authorized agent or the county treasurer of the county where the owner of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer is domiciled:

(a) an application for a certificate of title with a notice of security interest, if any, executed by the purchaser or recipient; and

(b) a manufacturer's certificate of origin that shows that the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer has not previously been registered or owned, except as otherwise provided in this section, by any person other than a dealer holding a franchise or distribution agreement from the manufacturer, distributor, or importer of the new motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer.

(2) If the dealer is an authorized agent, a temporary registration permit may be issued under 61-3-224 to the person to whom the new motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer was transferred.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 138, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-109.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 517, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 342, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 515, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 105, 161, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 196, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Time for payment of fees, 61-10-222.

61-4-113. New motor vehicles towed into state to be labeled. (1) Any firm, person, corporation, or association or any of its employees offering for sale or carrying on the business of selling new motor vehicles in the state of Montana is required to prominently label any motor vehicle that has been driven under its own power, pushed, towed, or propelled by any other means to sufficiently identify it from other new motor vehicles that have not been driven, pushed, or towed and is required to furnish the purchaser of the motor vehicle with a certificate, on a printed form to be furnished by the department upon request by the dealers, showing the actual number of miles the motor vehicle has been driven under its own power and the number of miles the motor vehicle has been pushed, towed, or otherwise propelled upon its own wheels. Any firm, person, corporation, or association or any of its employees who fail to prominently label and issue the certificate or who knowingly issue a certificate that is untrue and calculated to mislead the purchaser are guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to motor vehicles during the period of time that the motor vehicles are used for bona fide demonstrating purposes.

History: **En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 26, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 53-301, 53-302; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

Permit and transit plates for new vehicles being transported by driveaway or towaway methods, 61-4-301.

61-4-114. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 39, L. 1981.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1971; Sec. 53-118.6, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3315.1 by Sec. 168, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3315.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 219, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1973; Sec. 53-626, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3319 by Sec. 183, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3319, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315.1, 32-3319(part); amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 421, L. 1979.**

61-4-115. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 39, L. 1981.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 1971; Sec. 53-118.7, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3315.2 by Sec. 169, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3315.2, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 13, Ch. 219, L. 1951; Sec. 53-627, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3320 by Sec. 184, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3320, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315.2, 32-3320(part).**

61-4-116. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 39, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 209, L. 1971; Sec. 53-118.8, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3315.3 by Sec. 170, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315.3.**

61-4-117. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 39, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 209, L. 1971; Sec. 53-118.9, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3315.4 by Sec. 171, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315.4.**

61-4-118. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 39, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 209, L. 1971; Sec. 53-118.10, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3315.5 by Sec. 172, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3315.5.**

61-4-119. Penalty. A person violating a provision of 61-4-111 or 61-4-112 is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than $250 and not more than $500. Every violation of 61-4-111 and 61-4-112 is considered a separate offense.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 118, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 383, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-4-120. Auto auction — restrictions — annual report — issuance, use, and fees for demonstrator plates. (1) (a) An auto auction may not sell used motor vehicles by retail sale.

(b) An auto auction licensed under this part may auction a new motor vehicle only if the auto auction is authorized by a new motor vehicle manufacturer, importer, distributor, or representative, for the purpose of conducting a closed-factory fleet sale to dispose of new motor vehicles by the franchisor (manufacturer, distributor, or importer) to franchisee purchasers when the purchasers are licensed new motor vehicle dealers purchasing new motor vehicle line-makes authorized by their respective franchise, sales, or distributor agreements. An auto auction licensed under the provisions of this section shall notify and update the department with current fleet sale agreements between the auto auction and franchisor. An auto auction may not conduct a factory fleet sale unless authorized or appointed by a franchisor licensed under part 2 of this chapter.

(2) (a) On or before the 15th day of the month prior to the dealer license expiration month, an auto auction shall submit an annual report, in a form or manner prescribed by the department, to the department to advise the department of any changes that may have occurred in that calendar year affecting the information originally filed under 61-4-101 and any other relevant information requested by the department. The fee required for each first-time applicant is $500, and when the annual report is filed in subsequent years, it must be accompanied by a filing fee of $100.

(b) If an auto auction seeks to change the applicant's name, ownership interest in the business, corporate officer or managing member of the business entity, or a person designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business, the auto auction shall also provide a new license application form as originally required under 61-4-101 and the department shall examine the license application as required under 61-4-101.

(3) An auto auction that is an authorized agent may issue a temporary registration permit to a person who buys a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer at the auction, pursuant to 61-3-224. Within 30 days following the date of delivery of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer, the auto auction shall provide the purchaser with the assigned certificate of title or, if a certificate of title for the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer has not been issued in this state, a copy of the then-current registration receipt or the certificate and any related documents for each motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer. It is unlawful for the auto auction to issue more than one temporary registration permit for each motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer sale.

(4) (a) Upon the issuance of an auto auction license and payment of a $5 fee for each plate, the department shall furnish to the auto auction one or more demonstrator plates that may be used to transport inventory motor vehicles to and from a point of storage or a point of delivery in this state and to and from the auto auction's place of business, for road testing authorized motor vehicles, or for moving motor vehicles for purposes of repairing, painting, upholstering, polishing, and related activities. One license plate is required to be conspicuously displayed on the rear of the motor vehicle.

(b) Auto auctions may appoint designated persons, service stations, or repair garages to use the license plate only when conducting work for the auto auction involving repairing, painting, upholstering, polishing, or performing similar types of work upon a motor vehicle.

(c) When applying for license plates, an auto auction shall submit a sworn affidavit on a form prescribed by the department, listing each authorized person designated by the auction to use the license plates. The auto auction is responsible for reporting any changes to the affidavit within 72 hours after the change has occurred.

(d) An auto auction licensed under the provisions of this section is liable for the proper use of the license plates, which may not be used for private purposes. The department may revoke an auto auction's temporary registration permit and license plate privileges if an auto auction issues, authorizes the use of, or uses a temporary registration permit or an auto auction license plate in violation of the provisions of this section.

(5) (a) An auto auction licensed under this section shall validate the sale of a motor vehicle, a power sports vehicle, or a trailer through its auction by stamping its name and license number upon the certificate of title at a location on the certificate of title, at the margin in the assignment section as executed between the transferor and transferee. An auto auction's stamp must be legible and may not interfere with the information recorded on the certificate of title between the transferor and transferee. If the certificate of title lacks adequate space for the auto auction to place its stamp, the auction may provide the transferee a copy of the auction invoice bearing the:

(i) name and license number of the auction, along with an indication of the year, make, model, and identification number of the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer;

(ii) name, address, and signature of the transferor;

(iii) name, license number, and signature of the transferee; and

(iv) date the motor vehicle was sold through the auction.

(b) The invoice must be attached to the certificate of title and must be presented to the department with any application for title.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 162, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 143, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Wholesaler defined, 61-1-101.

61-4-121. Temporary registration permit — limitation on issuance and transfer — violation — penalty. (1) If the dealer is an authorized agent, as defined in 61-1-101, the dealer may not issue more than one temporary registration permit under 61-4-111 or 61-4-112 for each motor vehicle sale.

(2) A dealer who violates the provisions of subsection (1) is subject to revocation of the privilege to issue temporary registration permits for a period of time determined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-4-122. Compliance specialists as peace officers. (1) The department may designate and train civilian employees as compliance specialists within the motor vehicle division. Each compliance specialist is a peace officer whose jurisdiction is limited to enforcement of violations of Title 61, chapter 3, parts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, and chapter 4.

(2) As a peace officer, a trained compliance specialist may:

(a) issue citations and make arrests;

(b) issue summonses;

(c) accept bail;

(d) serve warrants of arrest;

(e) make reasonable inspections of the established place of business and, if applicable, vehicle inventory of a dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction; and

(f) require production of documents relating to the sale, purchase, exchange, or consignment of any motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer currently or previously in the inventory of or displayed for sale by a dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction or relating to any obligation imposed on a dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction under this title.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-4-123. Dealer requirements and restrictions. (1) A used dealer may not sell a new motor vehicle, a new power sports vehicle, or a new trailer.

(2) A dealer may not display at the dealer's established place of business or any approved off-premises sale location a motor vehicle offered for sale, trade, or consignment unless the Monroney label required for new motor vehicles pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1232 or the buyer's guide label required for used motor vehicles pursuant to 16 CFR, part 455, is affixed to the side window of the motor vehicle or is conspicuously displayed within the motor vehicle in a fashion that is readily readable by a customer.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4), a dealer may not sell or display a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer offered for sale at any geographic location other than that of the dealer's established place of business as listed on the dealer's license.

(b) A dealer may park a motor vehicle in a storage lot if:

(i) local zoning regulations permit that type of use;

(ii) the lot is in the county where the dealer's established place of business is located;

(iii) the dealer does not sell or advertise the sale of the motor vehicle at the lot; and

(iv) if applicable, the placement of the motor vehicle complies with the dealer's franchise agreement.

(4) (a) Upon prior notice to the department, a dealer may conduct an off-premises display and sale at a geographic location other than that of the dealer's established place of business as listed on the dealer's license if the dealer obtains a permit from the department. The department may require proof from the dealer that the location proposed for the off-premises display and sale is in compliance with local zoning ordinances. An off-premises display and sale must be conducted within the county of the dealer's licensed location unless the off-premises display and sale are restricted to recreational vehicles or power sports vehicles. A new motor vehicle dealer whose area of responsibility under the dealer's franchise agreement includes a county different from the county in which the dealer's established place of business is located may conduct an off-premises display and sale, subject to the agreement, in the other county if there is no other new motor vehicle dealer with an established place of business in that county. The display and sale authorized by this subsection (4)(a) may not exceed 10 consecutive days, and a licensed dealer may not conduct more than 10 off-premises displays and sales during any 1 calendar year.

(b) A dealer may display one or more motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers inside an airport terminal or shopping mall without obtaining an off-premises display and sale permit if no actual sales are made, or could be made, at the terminal or mall.

(c) Upon prior written notice to the department, a dealer may display one motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer at a geographic location other than that of the dealer's established place of business as listed on the dealer's license if no actual sales are made, or could be made, at the display location and the display:

(i) conspicuously promotes or supports an event or a program sponsored by a nonprofit corporation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes and the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer is displayed at a location where the event is being held or the program is being promoted; or

(ii) conspicuously promotes a joint commercial endeavor between the dealer and another clearly identified business entity and the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer is displayed on premises owned or leased by the other business entity and where the other entity regularly conducts its business. A display under this subsection (4)(c)(ii) may not exceed 90 days in a calendar year.

(5) If more than one dealer displays motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers at the same geographic location as another dealer's established place of business, each dealer shall ensure that all records, office facilities, and inventory, if applicable, are physically segregated from those of the other dealer and clearly identified and attributed to the appropriate dealer.

(6) A dealer shall install and maintain telephone service at the dealer's established place of business. The telephone service must be listed in the directory assistance that applies to the area in which the business is located, or if a cellular service is used, the dealer's cell phone number must be posted at the dealer's established place of business.

(7) A dealer shall conspicuously post at the dealer's established place of business written notice indicating the regular and customary office hours maintained by the dealer.

(8) (a) A dealer shall carry and continuously maintain a general liability insurance policy that covers any motor vehicle bearing a set of dealer plates or a demonstrator plate and any power sports vehicle displaying a dealer's identification card that is offered for demonstration or loan to a customer or that otherwise may be operated by a customer in the regular course of the dealer's business operations.

(b) A dealer shall ensure that the department is named as a certificate holder on any general liability insurance policy held by the dealer, that the minimum term of the policy is 1 year, and that a lapse of insurance does not occur as a result of cancellation or termination of a previously certified policy.

(c) This subsection (8) does not relieve a dealer of the mandatory motor vehicle liability insurance obligation imposed under chapter 6 of this title.

(9) A dealer shall display at the dealer's established place of business at least one sign stating the name of the business and indicating that motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers are offered for sale, trade, or consignment. The letters of the sign must be at least 6 inches in height and clearly visible and readable to the major avenue of traffic at a minimum distance of 150 feet.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 329, L. 2007.**

61-4-124. Annual report — filing fees — grace period for dealer and demonstrator plates — restrictions imposed upon failure to file. (1) On or before the 15th day of the month prior to the dealer license expiration month, a dealer shall submit an annual report, in a form or manner prescribed by the department, to the department to advise the department of any changes that may have occurred in that calendar year affecting the information originally filed under 61-4-101 and to provide any other relevant information requested by the department.

(2) (a) The department may require a dealer to submit one or more current photographs of the dealer's established place of business or the signage for the business with the dealer's annual report.

(b) If a dealer seeks to change the applicant's name, ownership interest in the business, corporate officer or managing member of the business entity, or a person designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business, the dealer shall also provide a new license application form as originally required under 61-4-101 and the department shall examine the license application as required under 61-4-101.

(c) If a dealer seeks to change the geographic location of the dealer's established place of business, the dealer shall also provide information concerning local land use planning, zoning, and business permitting compliance, if applicable, and a diagram or plat for the proposed location, consistent with the requirements of 61-4-101.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4)(c), the annual report must be accompanied by a $30 filing fee.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), a used dealer shall also certify, under penalty of law, to the retail sale of 12 or more used motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers during the calendar year for which the annual report is filed. A used dealer licensed for less than a full calendar year in the year for which the report is filed shall certify, under penalty of law, to the retail sale of an average of at least one used motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer for each calendar month or portion of a calendar month that the license was in effect.

(b) (i) A used dealer who cannot certify, under penalty of law, to the number of retail sales required under subsection (4)(a) in a calendar year for which the report is filed must pay a fee of $25 in addition to the filing fee required in subsection (3).

(ii) A used dealer who is also a qualified tow truck operator, as defined in 61-8-903, and who, in the dealer's annual report, cannot certify, under penalty of law, to the retail sale of five or more used motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers during the calendar year for which the report is filed shall pay a fee of $25 in addition to the filing fee required in subsection (3).

(iii) A dealer licensed as a motor vehicle wrecking facility under Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, is exempt from the minimum retail sales reporting requirements of this subsection (4).

(5) A dealer whose annual report is received by the department on or before the 15th day of the month prior to the dealer license expiration month may display or use dealer or demonstrator plates or identification cards assigned and registered until the dealer license expiration date.

(6) On or after the first day following the dealer license expiration date, the department:

(a) may not renew dealer or demonstrator plates or identification cards for a dealer who has not filed the annual report and paid the fees due under this section;

(b) may not issue or transfer a title under the provisions of 61-4-111(1) to or from a dealer who has not filed the annual report and paid the fees due under this section;

(c) may not allow issuance of a temporary registration permit under the provisions of 61-3-224 for a dealer who has not filed the annual report and paid the fees due under this section; and

(d) shall initiate an administrative action under the provisions of 61-4-105(2) to revoke the dealer's license unless the dealer voluntarily surrenders the license, along with any previously assigned dealer and demonstrator plates or identification cards, to the department for cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 143, L. 2019.

61-4-125. Wholesaler restrictions — demonstrator plates — annual report. (1) The retail sale of used vehicles by a wholesaler is prohibited.

(2) Wholesalers may not be issued or use dealer plates, as provided in 61-4-102. However, a wholesaler may be issued demonstrator plates, as provided in 61-4-129, for use on any type of motor vehicle or trailer that a wholesaler is authorized to sell. To the extent not inconsistent with this section, use of wholesaler demonstrator plates is otherwise governed by 61-4-129.

(3) (a) On or before the 15th day of the month prior to the dealer license expiration month, a wholesaler shall submit an annual report, in a form or manner prescribed by the department, to the department to advise the department of any changes that may have occurred in that calendar year affecting the information originally filed under 61-4-101. The report must contain information concerning owner identity, other ownership interests, felony conduct, general liability insurance status, surety bond filings, and any other relevant information requested by the department. A $30 filing fee must be submitted with the report.

(b) If a wholesaler seeks to change the applicant's name, ownership interest in the business, corporate officer or managing member of the business entity, or a person designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business, the wholesaler shall also provide a new license application as originally required under 61-4-101 and the department shall examine the license application as required under 61-4-101.

(c) Additionally, the wholesaler shall certify, under penalty of law, that the wholesaler sold 12 or more motor vehicles, power sports vehicles, or trailers to a dealer, an auto auction, or another wholesaler during the calendar year for which the annual report is filed. A wholesaler who was licensed for less than a full calendar year shall certify, under penalty of law, to the sale of an average of at least one motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer a calendar month or portion of a calendar month during which the license was in effect.

(d) A wholesaler who cannot, under penalty of law, certify the number of motor vehicle sales required under subsection (3)(c) shall pay a fee of $25 in addition to the filing fee required in subsection (3)(a).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 143, L. 2019.**

61-4-126. Claims against dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction bonds. (1) A person who suffers loss or damage because of the unlawful conduct of a dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction licensed under this title shall obtain a judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction prior to collecting on the bond of the dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction. The judgment must set out a specific loss or damage amount and establish that the licensee's unlawful conduct caused the loss or damage, before payment on the bond is required.

(2) If claim is made on a bond by two or more persons who have obtained a judgment against a dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction based on the unlawful conduct of the dealer, broker, wholesaler, or auto auction and the judgments in the aggregate exceed the amount of the bond, the proceeds of the bond must be divided between or among the claimants on a pro rata basis.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 329, L. 2007.**

61-4-127. Broker requirements — restrictions — annual report — fees. (1) A broker may not display a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer at the broker's established place of business.

(2) A broker shall install and maintain telephone service at the broker's established place of business. The telephone service must be listed in the directory assistance that applies to the area in which the business is located, or if a cellular service is used, the broker's cell phone number must be posted at the broker's established place of business.

(3) (a) A broker shall maintain a record of every purchase, sale, or exchange of a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer negotiated by the broker for compensation upon behalf of a client. The record must include the name, address, and customer identification number of:

(i) the broker's client;

(ii) the dealer or person from whom the client purchased, sold, or exchanged a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer; and

(iii) the financial institution, if any, that financed the client's purchase, sale, or exchange of a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer.

(b) The broker shall also maintain a record of each motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer for which a deal was brokered, including a description of the vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer, its identification number, and the source or sources of compensation received by the broker for each deal.

(c) All records must be physically located and maintained within the building referred to in 61-4-101. Records must be preserved for at least 5 years after the date of the purchase, sale, or exchange negotiated by the broker. An authorized representative of the department, upon presentation of the representative's credentials, may inspect and have access to and copy any records required under this chapter.

(4) (a) On or before the 15th day of the month prior to the dealer license expiration month, a broker shall submit an annual report, in a form or manner prescribed by the department, to the department pertaining to any changes concerning owner identity, other ownership interests,

felony conduct, or surety bond filings, as originally required under 61-4-101, that may have occurred during that calendar year and providing any other relevant information required by the department.

(b) If a broker seeks to change the applicant's name, ownership interest in the business, corporate officer or managing member of the business entity, or a person designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business, the broker shall also provide a new license application as originally required under 61-4-101 and the department shall examine the license application as required under 61-4-101.

(5) The annual report must be accompanied by a $30 filing fee. The annual report must include the number of purchases, sales, or exchanges negotiated by the broker during the calendar year for which the annual report is filed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 143, L. 2019.

61-4-128. Common standards — dealer plates — demonstrator plates — loaner plates — identification cards — fees. (1) (a) Dealer, demonstrator, loaner, and courtesy license plates authorized under this part must be designed by the department in a manner that is similar to standard license plates furnished under 61-3-332, but the word "dealer", "demonstrator", "loaner", or "courtesy" must be included in the plate design.

(b) Dealer, demonstrator, loaner, and courtesy license plates must be numbered in a manner that is readily distinguishable from other plate styles issued by the department. The numbering system for dealer plates must contain the distinctive license number assigned by the department to a dealer and a number or alphanumeric identification mark that relates to the assignment of sets of dealer plates to a dealer. The numbering system for demonstrator and loaner plates may be sequential and unrelated to the number of demonstrator plates or the distinctive license number assigned to a dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction.

(c) Dealer, demonstrator, loaner, and courtesy plates issued under this part must be replaced on the same cycle that is required for standard license plates under 61-3-332.

(d) Except as provided in 61-4-124, dealer, demonstrator, loaner, and courtesy plates must display a registration decal, affixed as prescribed by the department, for the calendar year for which use of the plate or plates is authorized under this part.

(2) (a) Identification cards must be designed by the department and furnished to dealers to authorize the demonstration of a motorboat or personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle by a dealer licensed under this part or a customer of a dealer licensed under this part. Each identification card must include the dealer's name and address and the license number assigned by the department to the dealer and must designate the type of power sports vehicle for which its use is authorized, such as a motorboat or personal watercraft, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle.

(b) The department may use the same numbering system for identification cards as it uses for demonstrator and loaner plates.

(3) (a) Upon issuance of a license to a dealer whose business includes the sale of motorboats or personal watercraft, snowmobiles, or off-highway vehicles, the department shall furnish identification cards to a dealer as follows:

(i) for a dealer who sells motorboats or personal watercraft, one identification card;
(ii) for a dealer who sells snowmobiles, two identification cards; and
(iii) for a dealer who sells off-highway vehicles, two identification cards.

(b) The dealer may obtain additional identification cards for $2, as needed, and upon submitting justification for the need to the department.

(4) (a) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells motorboats or personal watercraft may be displayed on a dealer's motorboat or personal watercraft while the motorboat or personal watercraft is operating for a purpose related to the buying, selling, exchanging, or performance testing of the motorboat or personal watercraft by the dealer, manufacturer, or potential buyer.

(b) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells snowmobiles must be carried by the dealer when demonstrating the dealer's snowmobiles or by the dealer's customer.

(c) An identification card issued to a dealer who sells off-highway vehicles must be carried by the dealer when the dealer's off-highway vehicles are being demonstrated for sale purposes or by the dealer's customer.

(5) (a) All dealer, demonstrator, loaner, and courtesy plates and identification cards issued under this part are expired on the first day following the dealer license expiration date of the year of issue and must be renewed annually.

(b) A dealer, wholesaler, or auto auction that files the annual report as required under 61-4-120, 61-4-124, or 61-4-125 may display or use dealer or demonstrator plates and identification cards assigned for the prior calendar year until the dealer license expiration date.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

61-4-129. Assignment of demonstrator plates. (1) (a) A dealer or wholesaler may purchase demonstrator plates at a fee of $5 a plate.

(b) Demonstrator plates may not be issued to a new or used dealer whose business is restricted to the sale of power sports vehicles.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), demonstrator plates may be used on a motor vehicle displaying a Monroney label or a buyer's guide label, as required by 61-4-123(2), or on a truck, truck tractor, truck tractor pulling a laden or unladen semitrailer, or travel trailer that is:

(i) being demonstrated and offered for sale to a dealership customer for not more than 72 hours when operated by an individual holding a valid operator's license;

(ii) owned by the dealership when operated by an officer or bona fide full-time employee of the dealer or wholesaler and used to transport the dealer's or wholesaler's own tools, parts, and equipment;

(iii) being tested for repair;

(iv) being moved to or from a dealer's place of business for sale;

(v) being moved to or from service and repair facilities before sale; and

(vi) being moved to or from exhibitions within the state, provided the exhibition does not exceed a period of 20 days.

(b) Demonstrator plates may be used:

(i) on trailers being hauled to or from the place of business of the manufacturer and the place of business of the dealer or to and from places of business of the dealer;

(ii) on travel trailers held for sale to demonstrate the towing capability of the motor vehicle, for not more than 72 hours;

(iii) on any motor vehicle owned by the dealer that is used only to move a travel trailer that is in the dealer's inventory; and

(iv) on trailers being moved to or from exhibitions within the state if the exhibition does not exceed a period of 20 days.

(c) Extra demonstrator plates may be made available to dealers eligible for demonstrator plates under subsection (2)(a) to provide to one or more service repair facilities to be used when moving a motor vehicle in the dealer's inventory to and from the dealer's place of business and the service and repair facility prior to sale. A motor vehicle displaying demonstrator plates under this subsection is not required to have a Monroney label or a buyer's guide label as required by 61-4-123(2).

(d) A motor vehicle being operated in accordance with this subsection (2) need only display one demonstrator plate conspicuously on the rear of the motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 258, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

61-4-130. Courtesy license plates — issuance — restrictions on use. (1) Upon application and payment of an annual fee of $150 a set, the department may issue up to two sets of courtesy plates to a dealer.

(2) Courtesy license plates may be displayed only on a motor vehicle that the dealer loans, without charge or fee, exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes. A loan of a vehicle displaying courtesy license plates may not exceed 30 days in a year.

(3) A dealer shall maintain records detailing to whom a vehicle bearing courtesy plates has been loaned, the date of the loan, the date on which the vehicle bearing courtesy plates is to be returned, and the actual date of the vehicle's return. These records must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity to whom the vehicle has been loaned and

the name of a contact person who will oversee the actual operation and use of the vehicle. The records are subject to audit by the department.

(4) It is the dealer's responsibility to ensure that courtesy plates are not used by an eligible person or entity for more than 30 days in a year.

(5) It is the responsibility of the person or entity to whom the vehicle bearing courtesy plates was loaned to carry, while operating or in actual physical control of the vehicle, adequate proof of the status of the person or entity under this section.

(6) If a dealer allows a person or entity to operate or retain actual physical control of a vehicle bearing courtesy plates in violation of this section, the department may suspend the right to use the courtesy plates for a period not to exceed 6 months.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-4-131. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Broker" means a person:

(a) who engages in the business of offering to procure or procuring a motor vehicle, a trailer, a semitrailer, a pole trailer, a travel trailer, a motorboat, a personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle on behalf of another; or

(b) who represents to the public through solicitation, advertisement, or otherwise that the person is one who offers to procure or procures a motor vehicle, a trailer, a semitrailer, a pole trailer, a travel trailer, a motorboat, a personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle by negotiating purchases, contracts, sales, or exchanges on behalf of another and who does not store, display, or take ownership of a motor vehicle, a trailer, a semitrailer, a pole trailer, a travel trailer, a motorboat, a personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle.

(2) (a) "Dealer", except as provided in subsection (2)(b), includes a new dealer or a used dealer licensed under this part.

(b) For purposes of 61-4-132 through 61-4-135, 61-4-137, and 61-4-150, the term is limited to a new motor vehicle dealer as defined in 61-4-201.

(3) (a) "Designated family member" means the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother, or sister of a new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in 61-4-201, who:

(i) in the case of a deceased dealer:

(A) is entitled to inherit the dealer's ownership interest in the dealership under the terms of the dealer's will or under the laws of intestate succession of this state; or

(B) has otherwise been designated in writing by a deceased dealer to succeed the deceased in the motor vehicle dealership; or

(ii) in the case of an incapacitated dealer, has been appointed by a court as the legal representative of the dealer's property.

(b) The term includes the appointed and qualified personal representative and the testamentary trustee of a deceased dealer.

(4) (a) "Established place of business" means the geographic location upon which a permanent building is located that is actually occupied either continuously or at regular periods by a person licensed under this part. A building is actually occupied if the licensee's books and records are kept in the building and, except for approved off-premises sales, the licensee's business is transacted within the building.

(b) A licensee's established place of business may also include the geographic location of one or more physical lots upon which vehicles are displayed for sale, as long as the requirements of 61-4-101(6)(e) regulating the distance between display lots and the recordkeeping building are met.

(c) The geographic location of the permanent building actually occupied by the licensee or the geographic location of the physical lots upon which vehicles are displayed for sale may be identified by street address, legal description, or other reasonably identifiable description, as prescribed by the department.

(5) "New", when describing a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer, means that the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer has not been the subject of a retail sale.

(6) "Parking", when prohibited, means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading.

(7) (a) "Power sports vehicle" includes a motorboat, a personal watercraft, a snowmobile, or an off-highway vehicle.

(b) A motorcycle or quadricycle must be treated as an off-highway vehicle if the motorcycle or quadricycle is not originally equipped for use on a highway.

(c) A sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer is treated as a motorboat.

(8) (a) "Trailer" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101 but does not include a trailer that has an unloaded weight of less than 500 pounds.

(b) A travel trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is treated as a trailer under this part.

(9) "Used", when describing a motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer, means that title to the motor vehicle, power sports vehicle, or trailer has been transferred because of a prior retail sale.

History: En. 51-609 by Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-609(1), (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 168, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Department of Commerce, 2-15-1801.

Estates, Trusts, and Fiduciary Relationships, Title 72.

61-4-132. Right of designated family member to succeed in dealership ownership. (1) Any designated family member of a retiring, deceased, or incapacitated dealer may succeed the dealer in the ownership or operation of the dealership under the existing franchise or distribution agreement upon the retiring dealer or the family member of a deceased or incapacitated dealer giving the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer of new motor vehicles written notice of the intention to succeed the dealer in the ownership or operation of the dealership within 120 days prior to the dealer's expected date of retirement or within 120 days after the death or incapacity of the dealer. The manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer may refuse to honor the notice of succession only for good cause in the manner provided for in 61-4-133.

(2) The manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer may request, and the designated family member shall provide, on request, personal and financial data that is reasonably necessary to determine whether the succession should be honored. The designated family member must meet the manufacturer's, factory branch's, distributor's, or importer's reasonable, uniformly applied written requirements to be a dealer. If the designated family member lacks experience required to meet those requirements, then the manufacturer shall allow the successor a reasonable amount of time to meet those requirements provided that during the period, the successor employs an individual who is qualified and experienced as a general manager to manage the day-to-day operations of the motor vehicle dealership.

History: En. 51-610 by Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-610; amd. Sec. 1941, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

61-4-133. Refusal to honor succession to ownership — notice required. (1) If a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer believes that good cause exists for refusing to honor the succession to the ownership and operation of a dealership by a designated family member under the existing franchise agreement as provided for in this part, the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer may, within 30 days of receipt of notice of the designated family member's intent to succeed the dealer in the ownership and operation of the dealership, serve upon the designated family member and the department notice of its refusal to honor the succession and of its intent to discontinue the existing franchise agreement with the dealership no sooner than 90 days from the date the notice is served.

(2) The notice must state the specific grounds for the refusal to honor the succession and of its intent to discontinue the existing franchise agreement with the dealership no sooner than 90 days from the date the notice is served.

(3) If notice of refusal and discontinuance is not timely served upon the designated family member and the department or if the department rules in favor of the designated family member in a hearing held pursuant to 61-4-134, the franchise agreement must continue in effect subject to termination only as otherwise permitted by law.

(4) In the event that a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer refuses to honor the family member's succession to the ownership and operation of the dealership without

complying with this part, the designated family member may commence a proceeding before the department for declaratory judgment against the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer for an order that the designated family member's right to succession be recognized. The burden of proof, rights, and remedies in the action are the same as if the designated family member had filed a notice of objection to a notice of refusal and discontinuance filed by a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer.

History: En. 51-611 by Sec. 3, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-611; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Notice — actual and constructive, 1-1-217.
Notice, 2-4-601.
Canceled dealership contracts — repurchase requirements — dealer data, Title 30, ch. 11, part 7.
Unfair trade practices generally, Title 30, ch. 14, part 2.

61-4-134. Procedure to determine right to succeed. (1) Any designated family member who receives notice of the manufacturer's, factory branch's, distributor's, or importer's refusal to honor the family member's succession to the ownership and operation of the dealership may, within the 90-day period, file a written complaint with the department for a hearing and determination by the department as to whether good cause exists for refusal to honor the designated family member's succession to the operation and ownership of the dealership.

(2) The manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer must establish good cause for refusal by showing that the designated family member failed to comply with the provisions of 61-4-132(2) or that the succession would be detrimental to the public interest.

(3) The franchise agreement must continue in effect until the final adjudication by the department on the written complaint and the exhaustion of all appellate remedies available to the designated family member. The manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer and the designated family member shall abide by the terms of the franchise agreement and the laws of Montana during adjudication by the department and the appeals process.

(4) If the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer prevails, the department shall include in its order approving the termination of the franchise agreement reasonable conditions affording the designated family member an opportunity to receive fair and reasonable compensation for the value of the dealership.

(5) Any decision by the department may be reviewed pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

History: En. 51-612 by Sec. 4, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-612; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

61-4-135. Written designation of succession unaffected. Sections 61-4-132 through 61-4-137 do not preclude a new dealer from designating any person as the new dealer's successor by written instrument filed with the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or importer.

History: En. 51-613 by Sec. 5, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-613; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-4-136. Violation — penalty. Any person violating the provisions of 61-4-132 through 61-4-137 shall upon conviction be fined no more than $5,000.

History: En. 51-614 by Sec. 6, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-614; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-4-137. Civil damages. Any new dealer suffering pecuniary loss because of a violation of 61-4-132 through 61-4-136, upon prevailing in a civil action for a violation, is entitled to damages equal to three times the pecuniary loss, together with court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. 51-615 by Sec. 7, Ch. 381, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-615; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

Cross-References

When exemplary damages allowed, 27-1-221.
Measure of damages, Title 27, ch. 1, part 3.

61-4-138 through 61-4-140 reserved.

61-4-141. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 93, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 169, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-142 reserved.

61-4-143. Unlawful curbstoning of vehicle for sale. (1) Except as provided in 61-4-123, a person may not display or park a motor vehicle offered or posted for sale on real property in which the person does not have a legal interest if the primary purpose of displaying or parking the vehicle on the property is to promote or effect the sale of the vehicle.

(2) This section does not prohibit the display or parking of a motor vehicle offered or posted for sale when:

(a) the display or parking of the motor vehicle is incidental to actual operation and immediate use of the motor vehicle by the motor vehicle owner;

(b) the motor vehicle owner obtains the written consent of the real property owner, lessee, or agent of the owner or lessee on whose property the motor vehicle is displayed and posts the written consent or a copy of the written consent in the front or rear window of the motor vehicle; or

(c) unless otherwise prohibited by local ordinance, the motor vehicle is displayed on a public street that is adjacent to real property in which the person offering the motor vehicle for sale has a legal interest.

(3) A person who violates subsection (1):

(a) is subject to a written warning for the first violation; and

(b) for a second or subsequent violation, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be fined an amount not less than $250 and not more than $500.

(4) Each violation of subsection (1) is considered a separate offense.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 170, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-144 through 61-4-149 reserved.

61-4-150. Sale, transfer, or exchange of dealership — notice — response to notice. (1) A manufacturer of new motor vehicles, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of the persons or entities listed in this subsection may not unreasonably withhold consent to the sale, transfer, or exchange of a franchise to a qualified buyer capable of being licensed as a new motor vehicle dealer in this state who meets the state's statutory requirements for appointment as a dealer.

(2) (a) A manufacturer or distributor shall respond to a dealer in writing within 60 days of receipt of the dealer's request, delivered by certified mail to the manufacturer or distributor, for consent to the sale, transfer, or exchange of the dealer's franchise submitted by the dealer to the manufacturer or distributor pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1).

(b) The manufacturer shall acknowledge, in writing delivered by certified mail to the dealer and the buyer designated in the dealer's request for consent, receipt of the request. Failure to respond within the 60-day period established in subsection (2)(a) is approval of the request.

(c) If the manufacturer or distributor requires additional information to complete its review, the manufacturer or distributor shall notify the buyer in writing delivered by certified mail within 15 business days of receipt of the dealer's request. If the manufacturer or distributor requests additional information, the 60-day time period for approval runs from the time of the receipt of the requested supplemental information. The manufacturer or dealer may request additional information only one time.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 2001.

Part 2
Licensing of New Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, Distributors, and Importers — Disputes — Standing

Part Cross-References

Canceled dealership contracts — repurchase requirements — dealer data, Title 30, ch. 11, part 7.

61-4-201. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Community" means the relevant market area of a franchise. For the purposes of this part, the relevant market area of a franchise is the county or counties in which the franchisee is located.

(2) "Distribute" means to sell new motor vehicles other than at retail or to enter into a franchise agreement authorizing a dealer to buy new motor vehicles for resale or to service motor vehicles under a manufacturer's or distributor's warranty.

(3) "Distributor" or "wholesaler" means a person who sells or distributes a line-make of new motor vehicles to new motor vehicle dealers in this state or who maintains distributor representatives in this state.

(4) "Distributor branch" means a branch office maintained or availed of by a distributor or wholesaler for the sale of a line-make of new motor vehicles to new motor vehicle dealers in this state for directing or supervising its representatives in this state.

(5) "Factory branch" means a branch office maintained or availed of by a manufacturer for the sale of a line-make of new motor vehicles to distributors or for the sale of new motor vehicles to new motor vehicle dealers in this state or for directing or supervising its representatives in this state.

(6) "Franchise" means a contract and any agreed-to amendments between or among two or more persons when all of the following conditions are included:

(a) a commercial relationship of definite duration or continuing indefinite duration is involved;

(b) the franchisee is granted the right to:

(i) offer, sell, and service in this state new motor vehicles manufactured or distributed by the franchisor; or

(ii) service motor vehicles pursuant to the terms of a franchise and a manufacturer's warranty;

(c) the franchisee, as an independent and separate business, constitutes a component of the franchisor's distribution system; and

(d) the operation of the franchisee's business is substantially reliant on the franchisor for the continued supply of new motor vehicles, parts, and accessories.

(7) "Franchisee" means a person who receives new motor vehicles from the franchisor under a franchise and who offers, sells, and services the new motor vehicles to and for the general public.

(8) "Franchisor" means a person who manufactures, imports, or distributes new motor vehicles and who may enter into a franchise.

(9) "Importer" means a person who transports or arranges for the transportation of a foreign manufactured new motor vehicle into the United States for sale in this state.

(10) "Line-make" means vehicles that are offered for sale, lease, or distribution under a common name, trademark, or service mark.

(11) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures or assembles a line-make of new motor vehicles and distributes them directly or indirectly through one or more distributors to one or more new motor vehicle dealers in this state or who manufactures or installs on previously assembled truck chassis special bodies or equipment that, when installed, forms an integral part of the new motor vehicle and that constitutes a major manufacturing alteration, but does not include a person who installs a camper on a pickup truck. The term includes a central or principal sales corporation or other entity through which, by contractual agreement or otherwise, a manufacturer distributes its products.

(12) "Motor vehicle" includes a motorboat and a personal watercraft as defined in 23-2-502, a snowmobile as defined in 23-2-601, and an off-highway vehicle as defined in 23-2-801.

(13) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has not been the subject of a retail sale regardless of the mileage of the vehicle.

(14) "New motor vehicle dealer" means a person who buys, sells, exchanges, or offers or attempts to negotiate a sale or exchange or any interest in or who is engaged in the business of selling new motor vehicles under a franchise with the manufacturer of the new motor vehicles or used motor vehicles taken in trade on new motor vehicles.

(15) (a) "Retail sale" means the sale of a new motor vehicle.

(b) "Retail sale" does not mean a sale:

(i) of a new motor vehicle to a purchaser who is acquiring the vehicle for the purposes of a resale; or

(ii) that is the result of a transfer between two licensed new motor vehicle dealers.

(16) "Transferee" means a person or entity that:

(a) is in possession or control of a new motor vehicle dealer;

(b) holds an ownership or signed contract interest in a new motor vehicle dealer;

(c) is acting in a fiduciary capacity for a new motor vehicle dealer; or

(d) is an heir, devisee, personal representative, beneficiary, successor, or assign of a new motor vehicle dealer.

History: En. 51-601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-601(1) thru (9), (11), (12); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 384, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 362, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 362, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 362, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies to all presently existing or hereafter established systems of distribution of motor vehicles in this state, including all existing agreements between a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor or a distributor branch, and a motor vehicle dealer, except to the extent that such application would impair valid contractual agreements in violation of the state or federal constitution.

(2) [This act] does not:

(a) govern, restrict, or apply to data that exists outside of a dealer data system, including data that is generated by a motor vehicle or devices that a consumer connects to a motor vehicle; or

(b) authorize a dealer or third party to use data that is obtained from a person in a manner that is inconsistent with either:

(i) an agreement with the person; or

(ii) the purposes for which the person provided the data to the dealer or third party."

Cross-References

Termination or substantial alteration of farm implements dealership agreements, Title 30, ch. 11, part 8.

61-4-202. License requirements. (1) A new motor vehicle dealer, manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, distributor branch, importer, or franchisor may not engage in business in Montana except in accordance with the requirements of this part. The provisions of this part do not apply to a public officer engaged in the discharge of official duties or to a trustee, receiver, or other officer acting under the jurisdiction of a court, to financial institutions disposing of repossessed vehicles, or to a person disposing of a personal motor vehicle. The provisions of this part regulating and licensing new motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers, distributors, factory branches, distributor branches, importers, and franchisors apply only to those new motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers, distributors, factory branches, distributor branches, importers, and franchisors of motor vehicles as defined by this part.

(2) A manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, distributor branch, importer, or franchisor transacting business within Montana by offering, selling, trading, consigning, or otherwise transferring a new motor vehicle to a new motor vehicle dealer must be licensed by the state of Montana. The department shall issue licenses to qualified applicants upon receipt of a license fee in the amount of $15 accompanied by the information required in this section.

(3) The following information, if applicable, must be submitted by an applicant upon forms supplied by the department:

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) the make and model of each new motor vehicle to be franchised;

(c) the name and address of each of the applicant's franchisees within the state;

(d) the name and address of each factory branch, distributor branch, agent, or representative within the state; and

(e) a statement affirming that the relationship between the applicant and the new motor vehicle dealer is subject to the terms and conditions of a standard written franchise agreement applicable to all its new motor vehicle dealers in this state. A copy of the standard written franchise agreement, including all standard terms and conditions applicable to all franchised dealers or distributors in this state must be filed with the application unless the standard written franchise agreement is already on file with the department. Any revision of or additions to the standard basic franchise agreement must be filed with the department within 30 days of dissemination to the new motor vehicle dealers in this state.

(4) A license may be renewed each year if the applicant is in compliance with the provisions of this part, remits a renewal fee in the amount of $15, and notifies the department of any changes in the information previously supplied.

(5) (a) A new motor vehicle may not be sold in this state unless either the manufacturer on direct dealership of domestic motor vehicles, the importer of foreign manufactured motor vehicles on direct dealership, or the distributor on indirect dealerships of either domestic or foreign motor vehicles is licensed as provided in this part.

(b) Notwithstanding any other licensing provision contained in Montana law, every new motor vehicle dealer shall obtain a license under part 1 of this chapter.

(c) The obtaining of a license under Title 61, chapter 4, part 1, or this part conclusively establishes that a new motor vehicle dealer, manufacturer, distributor, or importer is subject to the laws of this state regulating new motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers, importers, and distributors.

(6) When an objection to a proposal to terminate or not continue a franchise or a proposal to enter into a franchise establishing an additional new motor vehicle dealership of the same line-make is made pursuant to 61-4-206, a replacement license or new license may not be issued under this section to any replacement dealer or new dealer until adjudication by the department of the written objection filed pursuant to 61-4-206 and the exhaustion of all appellate remedies available to the objector.

History: En. 51-602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-602; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 1979; amd. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 384, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 171, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 362, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 362, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 362, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies to all presently existing or hereafter established systems of distribution of motor vehicles in this state, including all existing agreements between a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor or a distributor branch, and a motor vehicle dealer, except to the extent that such application would impair valid contractual agreements in violation of the state or federal constitution.

(2) [This act] does not:

(a) govern, restrict, or apply to data that exists outside of a dealer data system, including data that is generated by a motor vehicle or devices that a consumer connects to a motor vehicle; or

(b) authorize a dealer or third party to use data that is obtained from a person in a manner that is inconsistent with either:

(i) an agreement with the person; or

(ii) the purposes for which the person provided the data to the dealer or third party."

Cross-References

Writ of attachment — execution, Title 27, ch. 18, part 3.
Receivers, Title 27, ch. 20.
Small business licensing coordination, Title 30, ch. 16.
Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.
Trust administration, Title 72, ch. 38.

61-4-203. Administration. The department shall supervise and regulate all persons required by this part to be licensed. In the supervision and regulation thereof the department may:

(1) make investigations it considers necessary; and

(2) conduct hearings and compel attendance of witnesses at the hearings pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. 51-603 by Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-603; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — subpoenas and enforcement — compelling testimony, 2-4-104.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-4-204. Filing agreement — product liability. (1) A franchisee shall, at the time of application for a new motor vehicle dealer license under the provisions of 61-4-101, file with the department a certified copy of the franchisee's written agreement with a manufacturer and a certificate of appointment as dealer or distributor. The certificate of appointment must be signed by an authorized agent of the manufacturer of domestic motor vehicles whenever there is a direct manufacturer dealer agreement or by an authorized agent of the distributor whenever the manufacturer is wholesaling through an appointed distributorship. The certificate must be signed by an authorized agent of the importer of foreign-made vehicles whenever there is a direct importer-dealer agreement or by an authorized agent of the distributor whenever there is an indirect distributor-dealer agreement. The distributor's certificate of appointment must be signed by an authorized agent of the manufacturer of domestically manufactured motor vehicles or by an authorized agent of the manufacturer or importer of foreign-made motor vehicles.

(2) A franchisee need not file a written agreement or certificate of appointment if the manufacturer on direct dealerships or distributor on indirect dealerships or importer on direct dealerships uses the identical basic agreement for all its franchised dealers or distributors in this state and certifies in the certificate of appointment that the blanket agreement is on file and the written agreement with the particular dealer or distributor, respectively, is identical with the filed blanket agreement and that the franchisee has filed with the department one agreement together with a list of franchised dealers or distributors.

(3) A franchisor shall notify the department within 30 days of any revision of or addition to the basic agreement on file or of any franchise supplement to the agreement. Annual renewal of a certificate filed as provided in this section is not required.

(4) A manufacturer shall file with the department a copy of the delivery and preparation obligations required to be performed by a dealer prior to the delivery of a new motor vehicle to a buyer. These delivery and preparation obligations constitute the dealer's only responsibility for product liability as between the dealer and the manufacturer. Any mechanical, body, or parts defects arising from an express or implied warranty of the manufacturer constitute the manufacturer's product or warranty liability only. A manufacturer may not refuse a dealer's demand for defense and indemnity of a claim to which the dealer has been joined as a party, alleging manufacturer's negligence or breach of the manufacturer's warranty or product liability based on the mere allegations of the complaint without a reasonable investigation of the facts and determination that the dealer failed to perform the dealer's delivery and preparation obligations as required by this subsection or otherwise violated a legal duty owed to the claimant or manufacturer. However, this section may not affect the obligations of new motor vehicle dealers to perform warranty repair and maintenance that may be required by law or contract. Except with regard to household appliances, including but not limited to ranges, refrigerators, and water heaters, in a recreational vehicle and except with regard to a truck rated at more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, the manufacturer shall compensate an authorized dealer for labor, parts, and other expenses incurred by a dealer who performs work to rectify the manufacturer's product or warranty defect or for delivery and preparation obligations as provided in this part.

(5) All claims made by the dealer for compensation for delivery, preparation, and recall service, including labor, parts, and other expenses, and claims made for incentives must be paid by the manufacturer within 30 days of receipt of the claim from the dealer, unless the claim is properly disapproved, except that a manufacturer of a motor home shall pay any claim within 60 days of receipt from the dealer.

(6) Notwithstanding the terms of any agreement, the franchisor may not refuse to allocate, sell, or deliver motor vehicles, may not penalize a dealer, may not charge back or withhold payments or other things of value for which the dealer is otherwise entitled under a sales promotion, program, or contest, and may not prevent the dealer from participating in any promotion, program, or contest based on the dealer's selling of a motor vehicle to a customer who was present at the dealership and that the dealer did not know or could not have reasonably known that the motor vehicle would be shipped to a foreign country. There is a rebuttable presumption that the dealer did not know or could not have reasonably known that the vehicle would be shipped to a foreign country if the motor vehicle is titled in the United States.

(7) A franchisor may reasonably and periodically audit a motor vehicle dealer to determine the validity of paid claims or charge-backs for customer or dealer incentives.

(8) A dealer has 60 days from the date of notification by a manufacturer of a denial or a charge-back to the dealer to resubmit a claim for payment or compensation if the claim was denied for a dealer's incidental failure as set forth in 61-4-213(12)(d), regardless of whether the denial or charge-back was a direct or an indirect transaction.

(9) A dealer has 90 days after the expiration of a franchisor incentive program, or a longer time if provided by the franchise agreement, to submit a claim for payment or compensation under the program.

(10) Notwithstanding the terms of a franchise agreement or other contract with a dealer, after the expiration of 1 year after the date of payment of a motor vehicle claim or 1 year from

the end of a program that does not exceed 1 year in length, whichever is later, a franchisor may not:

(a) charge back to a dealer, whether directly or indirectly, the amount of a claim that has been approved and paid by the franchisor under an incentive program;

(b) charge back to a dealer, whether directly or indirectly, the cash value of a prize or other thing of value awarded to the dealer under an incentive program; or

(c) audit the records of a dealer to determine compliance with the terms of an incentive program.

(11) Subsection (10) does not prohibit a franchisor from making charge-backs to a dealer for fraud at any time as permitted by 27-2-203.

(12) The dealer shall furnish the purchaser of a new motor vehicle with a signed copy of the manufacturer's delivery and preparation requirements indicating that each of those requirements has been performed.

(13) Any violation of this section constitutes a prohibited practice.

History: En. 51-604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-604(1) thru (3), (5), (6); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 384, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 172, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.
U.C.C. — sales — warranties, 30-2-312 through 30-2-318.
Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
New motor vehicle warranties — remedies, Title 61, ch. 4, part 5.

61-4-205. Limitations on cancellation and termination. (1) Notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, a franchisor may not cancel, terminate, or refuse to continue a franchise unless the franchisor has cause for termination or noncontinuance.

(2) A franchisor may not enter into a franchise for the purpose of establishing an additional new motor vehicle dealership in any community in which the same line-make is then represented unless there is good cause for an additional new motor vehicle dealership under a franchise and it is in the public interest.

(3) (a) If a franchisor seeks to terminate or not continue a franchise or seeks to enter into a franchise establishing an additional new motor vehicle dealership of the same line-make, the franchisor shall, not less than 60 days prior to the intended action, and the franchisee may, at any time, file a notice with the department of intention to terminate or not continue the franchise or to enter into a franchise for additional representation of the same line-make. A notice of intention to terminate or not continue a franchise is not required from a franchisor until the conclusion of any review proceeding of that intention offered to the franchisee under the franchise. This section does not apply to an intended termination or noncontinuance of a franchise that the franchisee elects voluntarily, pursuant to a plan established by a franchisor, to submit to binding arbitration.

(b) The notice to be filed with the department of a franchisor's intention to enter into a franchise for additional representation of the same line-make must name the proposed additional franchisee and must identify by legal description or street address the additional location in the community. A change in the identity of the proposed additional franchisee or of the additional location in the community may only be accomplished by the withdrawal of the initial notice and the filing of a new notice. No more than one notice of intention to enter into a franchise for additional representation of the same line-make in the same community may be made by a franchisor within 3 calendar years of the date of final disposition of a notice of intention.

(c) If good cause is not found under this part or if the franchisor withdraws or dismisses a proceeding under this part, a franchisee who objected to a proceeding initiated by a franchisor under this part is entitled to recover from the franchisor reasonable attorney fees, costs, and expenses, including expert witness and consultant fees incurred in resisting the proceeding.

(4) Upon receiving a notice of intention under the provisions of subsection (3), the department shall, within 5 days of receipt of a notice of intention, send by certified mail, with

return receipt requested, a copy of the notice to the franchisor and to the franchisee whose franchise the franchisor seeks to establish, terminate, or not continue. If the notice states an intent to establish an additional new motor vehicle dealership, a copy of the notice must be sent within 5 days of receipt to all franchisees in the community who are then engaged in the business of offering to sell or selling the same line-make. Copies of notices must be addressed to the principal place of business of each recipient and to the statutory agent of each corporate recipient. The department may also give a copy of the franchisor's notice to any other parties whom the department may consider interested persons.

(5) In instances where the change in ownership has the effect of the sale of the franchise, the franchisor may not without good cause withhold its consent to the sale. Good cause relates only to the transferee's financial and managerial capabilities or to the inability of the transferee to comply with a state or federal law relating to new motor vehicle dealerships. The burden of establishing good cause is upon the franchisor.

(6) Notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of an agreement or franchise, in the event of the sale or transfer of ownership of the franchisee's dealership by sale or transfer of the business or by stock transfer to the dealer's or wholesaler's spouse or child, the franchisor shall give effect to the sale or transfer of ownership in the franchise unless the transfer of the franchisee's new motor vehicle dealer's or wholesaler's license is denied or the new owner is unable to obtain a license under the laws of this state.

(7) If a franchisor enters into or attempts to enter into a franchise, whether upon termination or refusal to continue another franchise or upon the establishment of an additional new motor vehicle dealership in a community where the same line-make is then represented, without first complying with the provisions of this part, a license under Title 23 or 61-4-101 may not be issued to that franchisee or proposed franchisee to engage in the business of selling new motor vehicles manufactured or distributed by that franchisor.

(8) A franchisor shall, unless a new franchisor of the line-make continues or replaces the dealer's franchise under subsection (10), compensate the dealer as provided in subsection (9) if the franchisor renders itself incapable of performing under a franchise agreement or renders a distributor incapable of performing under a franchise agreement by:

(a) selling or otherwise transferring some or all of the assets essential to the manufacture or distribution of the line-make covered by the franchise agreement;

(b) ceasing production of the line-make; or

(c) terminating, canceling, or not renewing the distributor's rights to distribute the line-make.

(9) (a) A franchisor considered incapable of performing under subsection (8) shall compensate the affected dealer in an amount equal to the greater of:

(i) the actual pecuniary loss that the dealer and its owners suffered as a result of the termination, cancellation, or failure to renew; or

(ii) the higher of the fair market value of the franchise on the following dates:

(A) the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or failure to renew;

(B) the date 1 year prior to the effective date of termination, cancellation, or failure to renew; or

(C) the day prior to the date on which the franchisor announces the action that results in the termination, cancellation, or failure to renew.

(b) The compensation required by this subsection (9) must be paid to the dealer within 30 days of the affected parties' mutual agreement in writing as to the amount of the compensation. If an agreement on compensation is not reached within 90 days of the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or failure to renew, an affected dealer may bring an action for a determination of the amount of compensation due and for recovery of that amount, plus costs and attorney fees.

(10) If, as a result of any of the circumstances described in subsection (8), an entity other than the original manufacturer or distributor of a line-make becomes the manufacturer or distributor for the line-make and intends to distribute motor vehicles of that line-make in this state, the entity shall honor the franchise agreements of the original franchisor and its dealers or offer those dealers a new franchise agreement for the line-make on substantially similar terms and conditions.

(11) The franchisor that is terminating, canceling, or not renewing a franchise agreement pursuant to subsection (8) shall:

(a) authorize the franchisee or another new motor vehicle dealer of the franchisor in the area to continue servicing and supplying parts, including service and parts pursuant to a warranty issued by the franchisor for any goods or services marketed by the franchisee pursuant to the motor vehicle franchise for a period of not less than 5 years from the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal; and

(b) continue to reimburse the franchisee or another new motor vehicle dealer of the franchisor in the area for warranty parts and service in an amount and on terms not less favorable than those in effect prior to the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal.

(12) The franchisor shall continue to supply the franchisee whose agreement is terminated, canceled, or not renewed pursuant to subsection (8) or another new motor vehicle dealer of the franchisor in the area with replacement parts for any goods or services marketed by the franchisee pursuant to the franchise agreement for a period of not less than 5 years from the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal at the same price and terms as the franchisor supplies the parts, goods, or services to the remaining franchisees of the franchisor or if there are not any remaining franchisees, at a price and on terms not less favorable than those in effect prior to the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal.

(13) If the franchisee continues to service motor vehicles and sell parts after the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of the franchise agreement pursuant to subsection (8), the compensation paid to the franchisee pursuant to subsection (9) must be reduced to the extent, if any, of the fair market value of the right to continue to service motor vehicles and sell parts as of the effective date of the termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal.

History: En. 51-605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-605(1) thru (4), (11), (12), (14); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 384, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Notice, 2-4-601.
Arbitration, Title 27, ch. 5.
Contracts in restraint of trade generally void, 28-2-703.
U.C.C. — investment securities — purchase, Title 30, ch. 8, part 3.
Canceled dealership contracts — repurchase requirements — dealer data, Title 30, ch. 11, part 7.

61-4-206. Objections — hearing. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), a person who receives or is entitled to receive a copy of a notice provided for in 61-4-205(4) may object to the approval of the proposed action by filing a written objection with the department within 15 days from the date the notice was received by the person entitled to receive the notice. If an objection is not filed within 15 days from the date the notice was received, the proposed action must be approved.

(b) A franchisee of the same line-make established in the same community as the proposed additional franchise of the same line-make may not object under subsection (1)(a) if the proposed additional franchise was first terminated by a franchisor and the franchise was subsequently awarded back by a legal or administrative proceeding to the franchisee from whom the franchise was terminated.

(2) If a timely objection has been filed, the department shall appoint a hearings officer to preside over and conduct a contested case hearing under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, part 6. Within 30 days of the order of appointment, the hearings officer shall enter an order fixing the time for a scheduling conference for the contested case and shall send to the parties by certified mail with return receipt requested a copy of the scheduling conference order and the notice provided for in 61-4-205(4).

(3) Upon hearing or upon objection to the establishment of a new motor vehicle dealership, the franchisor has the burden of proof to establish that good cause exists to terminate, not continue, or not establish the franchise.

(4) The rules of evidence for a hearing provided for in subsection (2) are the same as those found in Title 2, chapter 4. The department shall reasonably apportion all costs related to the contested case hearing between the parties.

(5) The department may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and compel the attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, documents, and all other evidence. The department may apply to the district court of the county in which the hearing is held for a court order enforcing this section. The hearing must be conducted pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

(6) A transcript of the testimony of each witness taken at the hearing must be made and preserved. Within 60 days after the hearing, the department shall make written findings of fact and conclusions and enter a final order.

(7) Any party to the hearing before the department may appeal pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

(8) The franchise agreement must continue in effect until the adjudication by the department on the written complaint and the exhaustion of all appellate remedies available to the franchisee. The franchisor and the franchisee shall abide by the terms of the franchise and the laws of Montana during the appeals process.

History: En. 51-605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-605(5) thru (9), (13), (17), (18); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 283, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

61-4-207. Determination of good cause. (1) In determining whether good cause has been established for terminating or not continuing a franchise, the department shall take into consideration all the existing circumstances, including but not limited to:

(a) the franchisee's sales in relation to the Montana market that are essential, reasonable, and not discriminatory and that take into account the franchisee's local market variations beyond adjusting for the local popularity of general vehicle types;

(b) investment necessarily made and obligations incurred by the franchisee in the performance of the franchisee's part of the franchise;

(c) permanency of the investment;

(d) whether it is injurious to the public welfare for the business of the franchisee to be discontinued;

(e) whether the franchisee has adequate new motor vehicle facilities, equipment, parts, and qualified management, sales, and service personnel to reasonably provide consumer care for the new motor vehicles sold at retail by the franchisee and any other new motor vehicle of the same line-make;

(f) whether the franchisee refuses to honor warranties of the franchisor to be performed by the franchisee if the franchisor reimburses the franchisee for warranty work performed by the franchisee pursuant to this part;

(g) except as provided in subsection (2), actions by the franchisee that result in a material breach of the written and uniformly applied requirements of the franchise that are determined by the department to be reasonable and material; and

(h) the enforceability of the franchise from a public policy standpoint, including issues of the reasonableness of the franchise's terms and the parties' relative bargaining power.

(2) Notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of an agreement or franchise, the following do not constitute good cause for the termination or noncontinuance of a franchise:

(a) a change in ownership of the franchisee's dealership;

(b) the fact that the franchisee refused to purchase or accept delivery of a new motor vehicle, part, accessory, or any other commodity or service not ordered by the franchisee;

(c) the failure of a franchisee to change location of the dealership or to make substantial alterations to the use or number of franchises or the dealership premises or facilities; or

(d) the desire of a franchisor or a franchisor's representative:

(i) for greater market penetration; or

(ii) to alter the number of the franchisor's or franchisor's representative's franchises or dealer locations.

(3) In determining whether good cause has been established for entering into an additional franchise for the same line-make, the department shall take into consideration the existing circumstances, including but not limited to:

(a) amount of business transacted by other existing franchisees of the same line-make in that community;

(b) investment necessarily made and obligations incurred by other existing franchisees of the same line-make in that community in the performance of their part of their franchise agreements and the date of the investment made and the obligations incurred by the existing franchisees in relation to the date of appointment of the additional franchisee;

(c) whether the other existing franchisees of the same line-make in that community are substantially compliant with reasonable manufacturer requirements for providing adequate consumer care, including satisfactory new motor vehicle dealer sales and service facilities, special and essential tools and equipment, replacement parts supply, and qualified management, sales, and service personnel, for the new motor vehicle products of the line-make;

(d) whether the demographic characteristics, including population, of that community have changed sufficiently since the appointment of the other existing franchisees to support the economic viability of both the other existing franchisees and the additional franchisee; and

(e) whether the franchisor's action is in good faith.

History: En. 51-605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-605(10), (15), (16); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 283, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

61-4-208. Prohibited acts — rights of franchisees. (1) A manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of the persons or entities listed may not:

(a) coerce, attempt to coerce, or require a new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer to:

(i) accept delivery of a new motor vehicle, a part, or an accessory for a new motor vehicle or any other commodity that has not been ordered by the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer;

(ii) participate in or contribute to any local, regional, or national advertising fund or to participate in or to contribute to contests, giveaways, or other sales devices;

(iii) change location of the dealership or to make substantial alterations to the use or number of franchises or the dealership premises or facilities;

(iv) either establish or maintain exclusive facilities, personnel, or display space or to abandon an existing franchise relationship with another manufacturer in order to keep or enter into a franchise agreement or to participate in any program discount, credit, rebate, or sales incentive;

(v) subject to subsection (2)(b) and notwithstanding the terms of a franchise agreement or other agreement providing otherwise, purchase or utilize goods or services, including electronic services such as websites, data management or storage systems, digital retail platforms, software, or other digital services or platforms, from a vendor, or contract with or engage any vendor identified, selected, or designated by a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, or an affiliate of the persons or entities listed without allowing the franchisee, after consultation with the franchisor, to obtain goods or services of like kind, quality, and design from a vendor that the franchisee chooses, so long as the goods or services comply with the franchisor's reasonable standards or requirements. It is a violation of this section for a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, or an affiliate of the persons or entities listed to coerce a franchisee to purchase or utilize certain goods or services by the withholding of any benefit, including monetary incentives and vehicle allocation the dealer is otherwise eligible to receive. Nothing in this provision prohibits a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or affiliate of the persons or entities listed from establishing any program discount, credit, rebate, or incentive that is conditioned on a new motor vehicle dealer's purchase or use of such goods or services.

(vi) require, coerce, or attempt to coerce a new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer to refrain from participation in the management of, investment in, or acquisition of any other line-make of new motor vehicle or related products, as long as the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer maintains a reasonable line of credit for each franchise and the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer remains in substantial compliance with reasonable facilities requirements. The reasonable facilities requirements may not include any requirement that a new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer establish or maintain exclusive facilities, personnel, or display space.

(vii) refrain from participation in the management of, investment in, or acquisition of any other line of new motor vehicle or related products if the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer maintains a reasonable line of credit for each make or line of new motor vehicles and remains in compliance with any reasonable capital standards and facility requirements of the manufacturer; or

(viii) enter into an agreement with a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, importer, or any representative of any of these persons or entities or do any other act unfair to the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer by:

(A) withholding or threatening to withhold any incentive payments in whole or in part or denying or threatening to deny the dealer the right to participate in an incentive program in which more than one dealer of the line-make in this state is eligible to participate and on the same terms. Nothing contained in this subsection (1)(a)(viii)(A) requires that a dealer be qualified by a manufacturer or distributor for incentive payments or the right to payments or benefits from an incentive program and a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may not be prohibited from informing a dealer of this, unless the dealer meets the qualifications, requirements, and standards for payment or benefits reasonably established by the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer. If the new motor vehicle dealer has otherwise submitted a claim substantially complying with the qualifications, requirements, and standards of the manufacturer, factory brand, distributor, distributor branch, or importer, a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may not deny an incentive payment or benefit claim based solely on a dealer's incidental failure to comply with a specific processing requirement, such as a clerical error or other administrative technicality that does not put into question the legitimacy of the claim. If a claim is rejected for such an incidental requirement, the new motor vehicle dealer may correct or complete and resubmit a previously submitted incentive claim for a period of up to 60 days following the new motor vehicle dealer's receipt of first notice of the failure. A manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer is not required to approve any such incentive claim if all material claim processing requirements are not substantially complied with by the new motor vehicle dealer within the time periods prescribed by this section.

(B) threatening to cancel or not renew a franchise existing between the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, importer, or any representative of any of these persons or entities and the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer; or

(C) threatening to withhold, delay, or disrupt the receipt of new motor vehicles or any motor vehicle parts or supplies ordered by the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer from the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, importer, or any representative or agent of any of these persons or entities;

(b) delay, refuse, or fail to deliver or offer to deliver new motor vehicles or new vehicle parts in a reasonable time and in a reasonable quantity taking into consideration the number of new motor vehicles or parts reasonably available for allocation and considering the new motor vehicle dealer's or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer's facilities, the dealer's historical selling pattern, and the dealer's sales potential in the dealer's relevant market area after accepting an order for any new vehicles or parts as are covered by the franchise from a new motor vehicle dealer having a franchise for the retail sale of any new vehicle or parts covered by the franchise if the new motor vehicle or part is publicly advertised as being available for immediate delivery or actually being delivered by the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer provided the new motor vehicle dealer meets any reasonable standards or requirements established by the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer related to the new motor vehicle or part. This subsection (1)(b) is not violated if the failure is caused by a force majeure beyond the control of the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer, provided that a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may not establish a minimum sales requirement for determining a new motor vehicle dealer's compliance with the franchise that fails to take into consideration the number of new motor vehicles or parts delivered or offered to be delivered to the dealer in the applicable time period.

(c) impose unreasonable restrictions on the assertion of legal or equitable rights on the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer or franchise of a new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer regarding transfer; sale; right to renew; termination; discipline; noncompetition covenants; site control, whether by sublease, collateral pledge of lease, or otherwise; or compliance with subjective standards;

(d) whether by agreement or otherwise amend or attempt to amend its franchise agreement or similar agreement governing the sales and leasing of new motor vehicles or establish or implement a franchise agreement for the sales and leasing of new motor vehicles, under which the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer:

(i) maintains a website or other electronic or digital means of communication for negotiating binding terms of sale or leasing of new motor vehicles directly with the retail buyer or lessee on prices or other substantive terms of sale or leasing of new vehicles, provided that a manufacturer or distributor may maintain a website or other electronic or digital means of communication that does not involve negotiating binding terms of sale or leasing of new motor vehicles directly with the retail buyer or lessee on prices or other substantive terms of sale or leasing of new vehicles;

(ii) retains ownership of new motor vehicles until they are sold or leased to the retail buyer or lessee. However, a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may maintain a common supply of new vehicles of which it maintains ownership until vehicles are sold to dealers from which more than one dealer may buy vehicles provided that the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may not use the common supply of new vehicles to engage in the negotiation of binding terms of sales or leases directly with a retail buyer or lessee.

(iii) except for the sale or lease of a vehicle to a bona fide employee of a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer or in connection with a replacement or buyback, consigns new motor vehicles to dealers for dealer inventory or for sale or lease to a retail buyer or lessee;

(iv) reserves the right to negotiate binding terms of sale directly with retail buyers or lessees of new motor vehicles. Displaying on a website or other electronic or digital means of communication aggregate or average prices or other costs, available financing sources, or a conditional aggregate or average trade-in value are not considered negotiating.

(v) reserves the right to offer or negotiate directly with the retail buyer or lessee at the time of sale in connection with the sale of a new motor vehicle sale of a service contract, vehicle maintenance agreement, guaranteed asset protection agreement or waiver, or any other vehicle-related products and services.

(e) amend or modify or attempt to amend or modify any franchise agreement including but not limited to the dealer's relevant market area if the amendment or modification substantially and adversely affects the dealer's rights, obligations, investment, or return on investment, without giving a 60-day advance written notice of the proposed amendment or modification to the dealer. Any term or provision in the franchise agreement that purports to give the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer the right to unilaterally amend or modify the agreement is void.

(f) notwithstanding the terms, provisions, or conditions of any agreement or franchise, use or consider the new motor vehicle dealer's or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer's performance relating to the sale of new motor vehicles or ability to satisfy any minimum sales or market share quota or responsibility relating to the sale of new motor vehicles, parts, or service contracts in determining:

(i) eligibility to purchase program, certified, or other used motor vehicles;

(ii) the volume, type, or model of program, certified, or other used motor vehicles that the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer is eligible to purchase;

(iii) the price or prices of any program, certified, or other used motor vehicles that the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer is eligible to purchase; or

(iv) the availability or amount of any discount, credit, rebate, or sales incentive that the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer is eligible to receive for the purchase of any program, certified, or other used motor vehicles; or

(g) enforce a right of first refusal to acquire the new motor vehicle dealer's assets or ownership by a manufacturer, distributor, or manufacturer's assignee or manufacturer's representative or to require a dealer to grant a right of option to a manufacturer, distributor, or manufacturer's representative.

(2) (a) There is no violation of subsection (1)(a)(iii) or (1)(b) if a failure on the part of the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer is beyond the control of the listed persons or entities.

(b) (i) Subsection (1)(a)(v) does not apply to goods or services specifically eligible for reimbursement of over one-half the cost of the goods or services pursuant to a franchisor or distributor program or incentive granted to the franchisee on reasonable, written terms.

(ii) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a)(v) and this subsection (2)(b), "goods" do not include:

(A) moveable displays, brochures, or promotional materials containing material subject to the intellectual property rights of a franchisor or parts to be used in repairs under warranty obligations of a franchisor; or

(B) special tools or training required by the franchisor, provided however, subsections (1)(a)(v) and (2)(b) do not apply to any special tool acquired by a new motor vehicle dealer from an alternate source that is of the same kind, quality, design, and function as required by the franchisor and complies with the franchisor's reasonable standards.

(c) Within the 60-day notice period provided for in subsection (1)(f) the dealer may pursue remedies under 61-4-215 and 61-4-216 and file with the department and serve upon the respondent a petition to determine whether good cause exists for permitting the proposed modification. Multiple complaints pertaining to the same proposed modification may be consolidated for hearing. The proposed modification may not take effect pending the determination of any protest filed by a dealer.

(d) (i) In making a determination of whether there is good cause for permitting a proposed modification of a dealer franchise agreement, including but not limited to a dealer's relevant market area, the burden of proof is on the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch or importer, except that the burden of proof with regard to the factor set forth in subsection (2)(d)(i)(C) is on the dealer. The department shall consider any relevant factor including:

(A) the reasons for the proposed modification;

(B) whether the proposed modification is applied to or affects all motor vehicle dealers in a nondiscriminatory manner;

(C) the degree to which the proposed modification will have substantial and adverse effects on the dealer's rights, obligations, investment, or return on investment; and

(D) whether the proposed modification is in the public interest.

(ii) With respect to a proposed modification of a dealer's relevant market area, the department shall also consider:

(A) the traffic patterns between consumers and the same line-make franchised dealers of the affected manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer who are located within the market as a whole;

(B) the pattern of new vehicle sales and registrations of the affected manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer within various portions of the relevant market area and within the market as a whole;

(C) the growth or decline in population, density of population, and new car registrations in the relevant market area and the market as a whole;

(D) the presence or absence of natural geographical obstacles or boundaries;

(E) the proximity of census tracts or other geographic units used by the affected manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer in determining the same line-make dealers' respective relevant market area; and

(F) the reasonableness of the change or proposed change to the dealer's relevant market area, considering the benefits and harm to the petitioning dealer, other same line-make dealers, and the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(d), a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer may engage in fleet sales with a fleet customer that has a designation as such by the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer because it has purchased or has committed to purchase five or more vehicles under the fleet program.

(f) Nothing in subsection (1)(d) limits a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer from setting or advertising a manufacturer's suggested retail price.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) or (3)(c), a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of any of these persons or entities may not own or operate, directly or indirectly, a motor vehicle dealership in Montana. This prohibition includes any dealership of a new line-make established by a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer or a subsidiary or a company affiliated through ownership of the manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer of at least 25% of the equity of the company.

(b) This subsection (3) does not prohibit the operation by a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, importer, or a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of any of these persons or entities of a dealership for a temporary period, not to exceed 1 year, during the transition from one owner or operator to another or the ownership or control of a dealership by a manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or importer while the dealership is being sold under a bona fide contract or purchase option to the operator of the dealership. Approval of the sale may not be unreasonably withheld by the manufacturer.

(c) A manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of any of these persons or entities may own an interest in a motor vehicle dealership but may not operate the dealership unless a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor, a distributor branch, an importer, a field representative, an officer, an agent, or any representative of any of these persons or entities has a bona fide business relationship with an independent person who is not a franchisor or a franchisor's agent or affiliate, who has made an investment that is subject to loss in the dealership, and who reasonably expects to acquire full ownership of the dealership on reasonable terms and conditions.

History: **En. 51-606 by Sec. 6, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-606; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 221, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 308, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 93, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 362, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 362, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 362, L. 2023, provided: "(1) [This act] applies to all presently existing or hereafter established systems of distribution of motor vehicles in this state, including all existing agreements between a manufacturer, a factory branch, a distributor or a distributor branch, and a motor vehicle dealer, except to the extent that such application would impair valid contractual agreements in violation of the state or federal constitution.

(2) [This act] does not:

(a) govern, restrict, or apply to data that exists outside of a dealer data system, including data that is generated by a motor vehicle or devices that a consumer connects to a motor vehicle; or

(b) authorize a dealer or third party to use data that is obtained from a person in a manner that is inconsistent with either:

(i) an agreement with the person; or

(ii) the purposes for which the person provided the data to the dealer or third party."

Cross-References

Contracts — consent in general, Title 28, ch. 2, part 3.

Contracts — circumstances that affect validity of apparent consent, Title 28, ch. 2, part 4.

61-4-209. Cease and desist orders. When the department has reasonable cause to believe, from information furnished to or from an investigation made by it, that any person is engaged in any business regulated by this part without being licensed as required, it shall immediately issue and serve upon the person, by certified mail, a cease and desist order, requiring the person to cease and desist from further engaging in that business. Upon failure of that person to comply with the order, the department shall file an action in the district court of Lewis and Clark County to restrain and enjoin the person from engaging in the business. The court in the action shall proceed as in other actions for injunctions.

History: **En. 51-608 by Sec. 8, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-608; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1942, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

61-4-210. Penalties — administrative penalties. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person who violates any provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $500 or more than $1,000 for each violation. Each day that a violation continues or occurs constitutes a separate violation.

(2) A manufacturer on direct dealerships, distributor on indirect dealerships, or importer on direct dealerships who has filed with the department an agreement used by all its franchisees in this state together with a list of all such franchisees and who fails to notify the department within 30 days of any revision, change, or addition thereto is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed $500.

(3) If any new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer incurs pecuniary loss due to a violation of this part by a manufacturer, distributor, importer, or factory branch or representative or agent of the listed persons or entities, the new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer may recover damages in a court of competent jurisdiction in an amount equal to three times the pecuniary loss, together with costs including reasonable attorney fees.

(4) In addition to any other penalty provided for in this part, the department may take appropriate enforcement action on its own initiative in accordance with the contested case procedures of Title 2, chapter 4. A person who violates the provisions of this part may be subject to administrative action and a civil penalty not to exceed $500 for each violation.

History: **En. 51-604, 51-607 by Secs. 4, 7, Ch. 380, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 51-604(4), 51-607; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 229, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 308, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.
When exemplary damages allowed, 27-1-221.
Measure of damages, Title 27, ch. 1, part 3.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-4-211. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 1979.**

61-4-212. Damage notice. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a franchisor is required:

(a) to disclose in writing to a new motor vehicle dealer damage to a new motor vehicle delivered to the new motor vehicle dealer if the damage is known to the franchisor and repaired, the damage occurred after the manufacturing process is complete but before delivery to the new motor vehicle dealer, and the damage exceeds 5% of the franchisor's suggested retail price as calculated at the rate of the new motor vehicle dealer's authorized warranty rate for labor and parts; and

(b) to disclose in writing to a purchaser of the new motor vehicle before entering into a sales contract that the new motor vehicle has been damaged and repaired if the damage to the new motor vehicle exceeds 5% of the franchisor's suggested retail price as calculated at the rate of the new motor vehicle dealer's authorized warranty rate for labor and parts.

(2) Disclosure is not required for any glass, tires, or bumper of a new motor vehicle if the damaged item has been replaced with original or comparable equipment.

(3) If disclosure is not required under subsection (2), a purchaser may not revoke or rescind a sales contract due solely to the fact that the new motor vehicle was damaged and repaired before completion of the sale.

(4) For purposes of this section, "franchisor's suggested retail price" means the retail price of the new motor vehicle suggested by the franchisor, including the retail delivered price suggested by the franchisor for each accessory or item of optional equipment physically attached to the new motor vehicle at the time of delivery to the new motor vehicle dealer that is not included within the retail price suggested by the franchisor for the new motor vehicle.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 308, L. 2009.**

61-4-213. Warranty reimbursement. (1) (a) If a motor vehicle franchisor requires or permits motor vehicle franchisees to perform labor or provide parts in satisfaction of a warranty issued by the franchisor:

(i) the motor vehicle franchisor shall reimburse the motor vehicle franchisee for the labor as rendered, using the franchisor's labor time guide or the labor time guide used by the dealer for labor furnished other than pursuant to warranty, at the dealer's election, and for parts and supplies, including but not limited to engine, transmission, and other parts assemblies, as furnished, in an amount equal to the prevailing retail rate charged by the franchisee for the labor or the prevailing retail markup charged by the franchisee for the parts and supplies in circumstances in which the labor is rendered or the parts and supplies are furnished other than pursuant to warranty;

(ii) the motor vehicle franchisor shall reimburse the motor vehicle franchisee pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(i) for labor performed on and parts supplied for a motor vehicle by the franchisee in good faith and in accordance with the manufacturer's warranty and written repair requirements and procedures, notwithstanding any requirement that the franchisor accept the return of the motor vehicle or make payment to a consumer with respect to the motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of Title 61, chapter 4, part 5; and

(iii) the motor vehicle franchisee may establish its prevailing retail labor rate or parts markup by submitting to the motor vehicle franchisor whichever of the following produces the fewer number of repair orders, all of which must be for repairs made no more than 180 days before the submission:

(A) all consecutive repair orders that include 100 sequential repair orders reflecting qualified repairs; or

(B) all repair orders closed during any period of 90 consecutive days.

(b) The submission required under subsection (1)(a)(iii) may consist of:

(i) a single set of repair orders for calculating both the franchisee's prevailing retail labor rate and its parts markup;

(ii) separate sets of repair orders, one for calculating the franchisee's prevailing retail labor rate and the other for calculating its parts markup; or

(iii) a set of repair orders for calculating only the franchisee's prevailing retail labor rate or only its prevailing retail parts markup.

(2) The motor vehicle franchisee shall calculate its prevailing retail labor rate by determining the total charges for labor from the qualified repairs submitted and then dividing that amount by the total number of hours charged for the repairs.

(3) The motor vehicle franchisee shall calculate its prevailing retail parts markup by determining the total charges for parts from the qualified repairs submitted, dividing that amount by the franchisee's total cost of the purchase of those parts including shipping and other charges, subtracting 1, and multiplying by 100 to produce a percentage.

(4) The motor vehicle franchisee shall provide written notice to the motor vehicle franchisor of its prevailing retail labor rate or prevailing retail parts markup calculated in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) if the franchisee seeks to be compensated under subsection (1).

(5) Any discounts must be allocated as indicated on the face of a repair order between parts and labor. If no allocation is indicated, they must be allocated pro rata. Manufacturer or distributor promotional reward program cash-equivalent pay methods may not be considered discounts.

(6) (a) The prevailing retail labor rate or the prevailing retail parts markup that is declared must go into effect 30 days following the motor vehicle franchisor's receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (2) unless within the 30-day period the franchisor contests the declaration by written notice of objection, received by the motor vehicle franchisee within the 30-day period, that the declared rate or markup is materially inaccurate.

(b) The objection must contain:

(i) a full explanation of any and all reasons that the declared rate is materially inaccurate;

(ii) evidence substantiating each stated reason;

(iii) a copy of all calculations used by the franchisor to demonstrate the material inaccuracy; and

(iv) a proposed adjusted retail labor rate or retail parts rate, as applicable.

(c) The motor vehicle franchisor may not submit more than one notice of objection to the motor vehicle franchisee with respect to any declared labor rate or retail parts markup, except in connection with litigation. After submitting the notice of objection, the franchisor may not add to, expand, supplement, or otherwise modify any element of the objection, including but not limited to its grounds for contesting the labor rate or parts markup, except in connection with litigation.

(d) A revision or supplement to a submission to correct or clarify the submission does not constitute a new submission for any purpose, including but not limited to that of subsection (9).

(7) In a judicial proceeding or a department proceeding involving an application or enforcement of the provisions of 61-4-203, 61-4-204, and 61-4-210(4):

(a) the issue must be limited to whether the labor rate or parts markup submitted by the motor vehicle franchisee was materially inaccurate;

(b) the motor vehicle franchisor has the burden of proof; and

(c) any resolution of the matter must be retroactive to the date 30 days following the franchisor's receipt of the franchisee's submission.

(8) A motor vehicle franchisor may not directly or indirectly:

(a) (i) require a motor vehicle franchisee to establish or alter its labor rate or parts markup by any means or methodology other than as prescribed in 61-4-204; or

(ii) except to object to or rebut a franchisee's declared retail labor rate or parts markup, itself initiate a process to establish or alter that labor rate or parts markup, including but not limited to:

(A) substituting any other purported qualified repair order sample for that submitted by a franchisee, including but not limited to the use, for purposes of establishing or reducing the franchisee's labor rate, of the franchisee's sample submitted for purposes of establishing or increasing its parts markup or the use, for purposes of establishing or reducing the franchisee's parts markup, of the franchisee's sample submitted for purposes of establishing or increasing its labor rate; or

(B) imposing an unduly burdensome or time-consuming method or requiring information that is unduly burdensome or time-consuming to provide, including but not limited to part-by-part or transaction-by-transaction calculations;

(b) recover or attempt to recover all or any portion of the franchisor's costs for compensating its dealers for warranty labor, parts, or supplies, either by reduction in the amount due or by separate charge or a surcharge to the wholesale price paid by the dealer to the franchisor for any product, including motor vehicles and parts;

(c) establish or implement a special part number for parts used in warranty work if it results in lower compensation to the franchisee than as calculated in this section;

(d) require, influence, or attempt to influence a franchisee to implement or change the prices for which it sells parts or labor in retail repairs;

(e) take or threaten to take adverse action against a franchisee who seeks to obtain compensation pursuant to this section or dissuade or discourage the franchisee from doing so, including but not limited to:

(i) creating or implementing an obstacle or process that is inconsistent with the franchisor's obligations to the franchisee under this section;

(ii) acting or failing to act, other than in good faith;

(iii) hindering, delaying, or rejecting the proper and timely payment of compensation due under this section to a franchisee;

(iv) establishing, implementing, enforcing, or applying any policy, standard, rule, program, or incentive regarding compensation due under this section other than in a uniform and consistent manner among the franchisor's franchisees in this state; or

(v) conducting or threatening to conduct any warranty repair, nonwarranty repair, or other service-related audit; or

(f) implement or continue a policy, procedure, or program to any of its franchisees for compensation that is inconsistent with this section.

(9) A motor vehicle franchisee may not submit, to establish or increase rates paid pursuant to subsections (1)(a)(iii) and (1)(b):

(a) its warranty labor rate more than once in a 12-month period; and

(b) its warranty parts markup more than once in a 12-month period.

(10) A recreational motor vehicle franchisee's warranty compensation for parts means actual wholesale cost plus a minimum 30% handling charge and any freight costs incurred to return the removed parts to the recreational motor vehicle franchisor.

(11) If a motor vehicle franchisor supplies a part or parts to a motor vehicle franchisee at no cost or at a reduced cost for use in fulfilling a warranty, the franchisor must compensate the franchisee for the franchisee's cost of the part, if any, plus an amount equal to the franchisee's prevailing retail parts markup, multiplied by the fair wholesale value of the part. The fair wholesale value of the part is the greater of:

(a) the amount the franchisee paid for the part or a substantially identical part if already owned by the franchisee;

(b) the cost of the part shown in a current or prior established price schedule of the franchisor; or

(c) the cost of a substantially identical part shown in a current or prior established price schedule of the franchisor.

(12) (a) The motor vehicle franchisor shall reimburse the motor vehicle franchisee for parts supplied and labor rendered under a warranty within 30 days after approval of a claim for reimbursement.

(b) All claims for reimbursement must be approved or disapproved within 30 days after receipt of the claim by the motor vehicle franchisor. When a claim is disapproved, the motor vehicle franchisee must be notified in writing of the grounds for the disapproval. A claim that has been approved and paid may not be charged back to the franchisee unless it can be shown that the claim was false or fraudulent, that the labor was not properly performed, or that the parts or labor were unnecessary to correct the defective condition.

(c) A manufacturer may not deny a claim or reduce the amount to be reimbursed to the dealer if the dealer has provided reasonably sufficient documentation demonstrating that the dealer performed the services in compliance with the written policies and procedures of the manufacturer known to the dealer at the time of submission of the claim.

(d) A manufacturer may not deny a claim based solely on a dealer's incidental failure to comply with a specific claim processing requirement, such as a clerical error or other administrative technicality that does not put into question the legitimacy of the claim.

(e) A franchisor may not audit a claim after the expiration of 12 months following the payment of the claim.

(13) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Labor" means work or service performed, including that of a diagnostic character, with respect to repair of a motor vehicle.

(b) "Parts" means original or replacement parts, accessories, and components with respect to a motor vehicle, including engine, transmission, and other parts assemblies.

(c) (i) "Qualified repair" means a repair to a vehicle that:

(A) would have come within the motor vehicle franchisor's new vehicle warranty but for the vehicle having exceeded the time or mileage limit of the warranty;

(B) does not otherwise constitute warranty work; and

(C) does not constitute any of the work encompassed by subsection (13)(c)(ii).

(ii) The term does not include:

(A) routine maintenance, including but not limited to replacements of fluids, filters, batteries, bulbs, belts, nuts, bolts, or fasteners, unless provided in the course of and related to a repair;

(B) replacements of or work on tires, wheels, or elements related to either tires or wheels, including but not limited to vehicle alignments and tire or wheel rotations;

(C) repairs for which volume discounts have been negotiated with government agencies, insurers, extended warranty or service contract providers, or other third-party payors;

(D) repairs that are the subject of motor vehicle franchisor special events, promotions, or service campaigns or are otherwise subject to motor vehicle franchisor discounts;

(E) repairs of motor vehicles owned by the dealer or an employee of the dealer;

(F) installations of accessories;

(G) repairs of conditions caused by collision, road hazard, the force of the elements, vandalism, theft, or owner, operator, or third-party negligence or deliberate acts;

(H) safety or vehicle emission inspections required by law;

(I) vehicle reconditioning;

(J) parts sold at wholesale;

(K) repairs using aftermarket parts; or

(L) goodwill repairs or replacements approved and reimbursed by the motor vehicle franchisor.

(d) "Qualified repair order" means a repair order that encompasses, in whole or in part, a qualified repair or repairs.

(e) "Repair order" means an invoice paid by a retail customer and closed as of the time of submission, encompassing one or more repairs to or other work on a vehicle, and reflecting, in the case of a prevailing retail parts markup submission, the cost of each part and its sale price and, in the case of a prevailing retail labor rate submission, the labor hours allocated to each job and the sale price of the labor. The invoice may be submitted in electronic form.

(f) "Warranty" means, in addition to a new motor vehicle warranty, predelivery preparation, a recall, or a certified preowned warranty, in each case issued or administered by a motor vehicle franchisor.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 283, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

61-4-214 reserved.

61-4-215. Mediation of disputes. (1) All disputes between a manufacturer, person, or entity described in 61-4-208(1) and a new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer alleged to be in violation of any provision of Montana law, including but not limited to 30-11-701 through 30-11-713, 30-11-717 through 30-11-719, 61-4-131 through 61-4-137, 61-4-150, 61-4-205(1) and (2), 61-4-208, and 61-4-213, are subject to mediation as provided for in this section. A demand for mediation must be served on the adverse party before or contemporaneous with the filing of the objection, protest, complaint, or petition or the bringing of the action. A demand for mediation must be in writing and served on the adverse party by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight delivery service that provides proof of delivery at an address designated for the party in the records of the complainant. The demand for mediation must contain a brief statement of the dispute and the relief sought by the complainant filing the demand.

(2) Within 20 days after the date a demand for mediation is served, the parties shall mutually select an independent mediator and meet with that mediator for the purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. If the parties are unable to agree on a mediator, a party may apply to a district judge of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County, for appointment of a mediator. The meeting place must be within this state in a location selected by the mediator in proximity to the place of business of a party domiciled in this state. The mediator may extend the date of the meeting for good cause shown by either party or on the stipulation of both parties.

(3) The service of a demand for mediation under subsection (1) must stay the time for the filing of any objection, protest, complaint, or petition with the department or for bringing an action until the representatives of both parties have met with a mutually selected or appointed mediator for the purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. If an objection, protest, complaint, or petition is filed before the meeting, the department or the court shall enter an order suspending the proceeding or action until the meeting has occurred and may, on the written stipulation of all parties to the proceeding or action that they wish to continue to mediate under this section, enter an order suspending the proceeding or action for as long a period as the department or court considers to be appropriate. A suspension order issued under this subsection may be revoked on motion of any party or on motion of the department or the court.

(4) The department shall encourage dealers and manufacturers to establish a panel of mediators who have the character, ability, and training to serve as mediators and who have knowledge of the motor vehicle industry.

(5) A mediator is immune from civil liability for any good faith act or omission within the scope of the mediator's or arbitrator's performance of the mediator's or arbitrator's powers and

duties under this chapter. An act or omission of a mediator is presumed to be a good faith act or omission. This presumption may be overcome only by clear and convincing evidence.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 2021.**

61-4-216. Administrative hearings and adjudications — procedure. (1) A new motor vehicle dealer or transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer who is directly and adversely affected by the action or conduct of a manufacturer, person, or entity described in 61-4-208(1) that is alleged to be in violation of any provision of Montana law, including but not limited to 30-11-701 through 30-11-713, 30-11-717 through 30-11-719, 61-4-131 through 61-4-137, 61-4-150, 61-4-208, and 61-4-213, may seek a declaration and adjudication of rights and obligations with respect to the alleged action or conduct by filing with the department a complaint and request for an administrative hearing that conforms substantially with the requirements of the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, which governs all matters and procedures respecting the hearing and judicial review of cases such as this. The hearing officer shall assess the department's costs against the parties or a party as a cost of the action.

(2) Objections or notice of protest pursuant to 61-4-205(1) and (2) must be adjudicated pursuant to those statutes if mediation pursuant to 61-4-215 is unsuccessful.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 2021.**

61-4-217. Standing to bring action. (1) The following entities have standing to seek redress for violations of Title 30, chapters 11 and 14, part 25, of this chapter, or of any other provision of Montana law relating to or affecting the relationship between a manufacturer, person, or entity described in 61-4-208(1) and a new motor vehicle dealer:

(a) a new motor vehicle dealer;

(b) a transferee of a new motor vehicle dealer; and

(c) any corporation or association that is primarily owned by or composed of new motor vehicle dealers and that primarily represents the interests of new motor vehicle dealers if at least one of the corporation or association members would have standing on its own, the interests that the action seeks to protect are germane to the corporation or association's purpose, and the claim asserted or the relief requested does not require the participation of individual members in the action.

(2) Entities that have standing under subsection (1) may:

(a) file a petition and request the department handle the matter as an administrative proceeding; or

(b) bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) An action filed under this section may seek:

(a) recovery of actual damages;

(b) declaratory or injunctive relief; or

(c) reasonable costs of the suit and attorney fees to a prevailing party.

(4) A court or administrative hearing officer may, in its discretion, increase the award of damages up to an amount not to exceed three times the actual damages sustained for a willful violation of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 2021.**

61-4-218 through 61-4-220 reserved.

61-4-221. Manufacturer's representative's license plates. (1) As used in 61-4-221 through 61-4-223, "manufacturer's representative" means a resident of Montana who is an employee of a motor vehicle manufacturer licensed under the provisions of 61-4-202 and whose responsibility includes coordinating and promoting sales efforts with the manufacturer's dealers.

(2) Subject to the provisions of 61-4-221 through 61-4-223 and notwithstanding the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, a manufacturer's representative who qualifies as provided in subsection (1) may display manufacturer's license plates on a motor vehicle used solely for business purposes.

(3) To qualify for the issuance and use of manufacturer's license plates by its manufacturer's representatives, the manufacturer licensed under 61-4-202 shall apply on forms and in a manner prescribed by the department and pay the fees provided for in 61-4-222.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

61-4-222. Fees. (1) Upon making the application required under 61-4-221, the manufacturer shall pay to the department a fee of $250, which entitles the manufacturer to one set of license plates, and an additional fee of $20 for each additional set of license plates. The manufacturer may receive one set of license plates for each manufacturer's representative.

(2) The fees provided for in subsection (1) do not apply to the manufacturer of a personal watercraft as defined in 23-2-502, a snowmobile as defined in 23-2-601, or an off-highway vehicle as defined in 23-2-801.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 404, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 384, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Department of Justice — disposition of fees, 61-3-108.

61-4-223. Assignment of numbers. (1) Upon the licensing of a manufacturer under 61-4-202, the department shall assign to the manufacturer a distinctive serial number and, after payment of fees provided for in 61-4-222, furnish every qualified manufacturer's representative of that manufacturer with one set of license plates. Assigned license plates must be similar to standard license plates furnished to owners of motor vehicles but must bear, in addition to the serial number assigned to the manufacturer, the letters "MFG".

(2) The department shall cause to be placed on each set of license plates issued to a manufacturer a serial number assigned to the manufacturer and the actual number of license plates issued to the manufacturer. The department shall provide registration decals bearing the appropriate county designation. The registration decals must be affixed to the license plates in use in accordance with instructions by the department.

(3) A manufacturer's representative who qualifies as provided in 61-4-221(1) may display manufacturer's license plates on a motor vehicle held for bona fide sale or used solely in the conduct of the manufacturer's business and operated by or under the control of the manufacturer's representative.

(4) When the department has reasonable cause to believe, from an investigation made by it or information furnished to it by a sheriff or any other law enforcement officer, that a manufacturer has been improperly licensed, has used the manufacturer's license other than as authorized in this section, or is not qualified as a manufacturer under the requirements of this part, the department may revoke the manufacturer's license.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 404, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

61-4-224 reserved.

61-4-225. Loaner license plates — issuance — restrictions on use. (1) On application and payment of an annual fee of $25 for a set, the department may issue loaner plates to a new motor vehicle dealer as defined in 61-4-201.

(2) Loaner license plates may be displayed only on a new motor vehicle:

(a) that remains on a manufacturer's statement of origin;

(b) that is in the inventory of the dealer and held primarily for resale; and

(c) that the dealer loans to a customer while the dealer is repairing the customer's vehicle.

(3) A dealer shall maintain records detailing to whom a vehicle bearing loaner plates has been loaned, the date of the loan, the date on which the vehicle bearing loaner plates is to be returned, and the actual date of the vehicle's return. These records must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity to whom the vehicle has been loaned and the name of a contact person who will oversee the actual operation and use of the vehicle. The records are subject to audit by the department.

(4) It is the responsibility of the person or entity to whom the vehicle bearing loaner plates was loaned to carry, while operating or in actual physical control of the vehicle, written proof that the person or entity is authorized to operate or be in actual physical control of the vehicle.

(5) If a dealer allows a person or entity to operate or retain actual physical control of a vehicle bearing loaner plates in violation of this section, the department may suspend the dealer's right to use the loaner plates for a period not to exceed 6 months.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 2021.

Part 3
Transportation of Vehicles

Part Cross-References

New motor vehicles towed into state to be labeled, 61-4-113.

61-4-301. Permit and transit plates for new motor vehicles being transported by driveaway or towaway methods — used mobile homes. (1) (a) A person, firm, partnership, or corporation, regularly and lawfully engaged in the transportation of new motor vehicles over the highways of this state from manufacturing or assembly points to agents of manufacturers and dealers in this state or in other states, territories, or foreign countries or provinces by the driveaway or towaway methods, when the motor vehicles being driven, towed, or transported by the saddle-mount, towbar, or full-mount methods, or a lawful combination of these methods, will be transported over the highways of the state only once, may annually apply to the department of justice for a permit to use the highways of this state and shall pay, upon filing the application, a fee of $100. Upon processing of the application, that department shall issue an annual permit to the applicant.

(b) A person moving used mobile homes from a point outside the state to a point inside the state may apply to the department for the permit authorized pursuant to subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) The permitholder may also apply to the department of justice for five sets of transit plates showing the permit number for identification of the motor vehicles being transported by the permitholder, and the plates or devices may be used on a motor vehicle being driven, towed, or transported by and under the control of the permitholder. The department shall collect the additional sum of $10 for each set of transit plates or devices applied for and issued.

(b) A permitholder may apply for and receive more than five sets of transit plates in a calendar year if the permitholder can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the department, that additional sets of plates are needed based on the number of trip fees reported in Montana in the previous calendar year. The department shall collect $10 for each additional set of transit plates issued.

(3) The department of justice shall retain the permit and plate fees to defray costs of administering 61-4-301 through 61-4-308.

(4) The permit and transit plates or devices expire on December 31 of each year.

History: En. Sec. 6-401, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3401; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 299, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Special mobile equipment — identification plate, 61-3-431.
Brakes required on all wheels — exceptions, 61-9-304.

61-4-302. One-trip fee in addition to permit and plate fees payable quarterly — exception. (1) In addition to the permit and plate fees, a permitholder shall pay to the department a one-trip fee of $5 for each driven motor vehicle. The fee must be paid within 15 days after the end of the calendar quarter upon forms recommended or supplied by that department.

(2) A person moving new or used mobile homes is not subject to the one-trip fee required by subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 6-402, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3402; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 175, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-303. Disposition of funds collected. The department of justice shall retain 5% of the funds collected in payment of the trip fees to defray costs of administration. The remaining 95% shall be transferred, on or before the 15th day of each month after collection, to the credit of the department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 6-403, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3403; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-4-304. Fees provided for to be in addition to fees now payable under chapter 12, Title 69. The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transportation are in addition to any fees payable by for-hire carriers under the provisions of chapter 12, Title 69.

History: En. Sec. 6-404, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3404.

61-4-305. Driveaway or towaway fees in lieu of other fees payable — election to pay other fees. The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transporters are in consideration of the right to use the highways of the state and except as provided in 61-4-304 are in lieu of all other fees including those which might be payable under the provisions of part 2 of chapter 10. However, any operator may elect to pay the fees payable under the provisions of that part.

History: En. Sec. 6-405, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3405; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-4-306. Exemptions from fees. The fees provided for driveaway or towaway transporters do not apply to:

(1) motor vehicles regularly used in the hauling of motor vehicles by the truckaway method or to the motor vehicles being hauled;

(2) motor vehicles operated under dealers' licenses or plates;

(3) motor vehicles registerable under any other provisions of law;

(4) any person not issued a driveaway or towaway permit.

History: En. Sec. 6-406, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3406; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-307. Display of plates. A motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles transported over the highways of the state by a permitholder shall display in a prominent position on the motor vehicle the distinctive transit plates or devices, with the towing motor vehicle displaying the plates or device on the front of the motor vehicle and a towed motor vehicle displaying the plates on the rear of the motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 133, L. 1953; Sec. 53-632, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3407 by Sec. 185, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3407; amd. Sec. 177, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-308. List of holders of permits and transit plates. The department of justice shall furnish the department of transportation a list of the permitholders and of the transit plates or devices issued to those permitholders.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 133, L. 1953; Sec. 53-633, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3408 by Sec. 186, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3408; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Special mobile equipment — identification plate, 61-3-431.

61-4-309. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-119.1(part).

61-4-310. Single movement permit — fee — limitation — county treasurer to issue. (1) A vehicle subject to registration under chapter 3 may be moved unladen upon the highways of this state from a point within the state to a point of destination. The county treasurer at the point of the origin of the movement shall issue a special permit for the vehicle in lieu of fees required under 61-3-321 and part 2 of chapter 10 of this title upon application presented to the county treasurer in a form provided by the department, upon exhibiting to the county treasurer proof of ownership and evidence that the personal property taxes or fees in lieu of property tax on the vehicle, if any are due, have been paid, and upon payment of a fee of $5. The fee must be forwarded to the department of revenue for deposit in the state general fund. The permit is not in lieu of fees and permits required under 61-4-301 and 61-4-302.

(2) The permit is for the transit of the vehicle only, and the vehicle may not at the time of the transit be used for the transportation of any persons, except the driver, or any property for compensation or otherwise and is for one transit only between the points of origin and destination as set forth in the application and shown on the permit.

(3) A junk vehicle being driven or towed to a motor vehicle wrecking facility or a motor vehicle graveyard for disposal is exempt from the provisions of this section. The definitions in 75-10-501 apply to this subsection.

(4) A manufactured home, mobile home, or housetrailer may be moved unladen upon the highways of this state from a point within the state to a point of destination only if a tax-paid receipt authorizing the move has been issued under 15-24-206.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-119.1(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 249, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

Certificate of title, 61-3-202.

61-4-311. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 53-119.2.

Part 4
Monopolies in Financing Sale of Motor Vehicles

Part Cross-References

U.C.C. — sales, Title 30, ch. 2.
Unfair competition in sales, 30-14-207.
Loans of money — interest rates, Title 31, ch. 1, part 1.
Retail installment sales — finance charge limitation, 31-1-241.

61-4-401. Declaration of policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that free and unrestrained competition shall prevail in the business of financing the purchase or sale of motor vehicles.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-201.

61-4-402. Definitions. (1) "Finance company" or "finance agency" means a person, firm, association, corporation, or other organization engaged in the business of buying, selling, assigning, dealing, financing, or acquiring conditional contracts of sale or engaged in the business of purchasing or acquiring promissory notes or any other form or evidences of indebtedness of sale, either secured by vendor's lien, conditional bill of sale, chattel mortgage, or leases arising out of the sale of motor vehicles in this state.

(2) The term "manufacturer" means a person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association engaged either directly or indirectly in the manufacture or wholesale distribution of motor vehicles.

(3) The term "motor vehicle", as used in this part, includes a personal watercraft as defined in 23-2-502, a snowmobile as defined in 23-2-601, and an off-highway vehicle as defined in 23-2-801.

(4) The terms "sell", "sold", "buy", and "purchase", as used in this part, include exchange, barter, gift, and offer or contract to sell or buy.

(5) The term "wholesale distributor" means a person, firm, association, corporation, or other organization engaged directly or indirectly in the sale or distribution of motor vehicles to agents or to dealers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-202(b) thru (d), (f); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 384, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Retail installment sales — sales finance company defined, 31-1-202.
Manufacturer defined, 61-1-101.
Licensing of new motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and importers — disputes — standing, Title 61, ch. 4, part 2.

61-4-403. Certain financing agreements prohibited. It is unlawful for any manufacturer or wholesale distributor of motor vehicles to sell or enter into a contract for the sale of motor vehicles to any motor vehicle dealer on the condition or under an agreement, expressed or implied, that the dealer will finance the purchase or sale of any motor vehicle or vehicles only through a designated finance company or finance agency. Any such condition, agreement, or understanding is against the public policy of the state, and such condition, agreement, or understanding is unlawful, void, and unenforceable, either at law or equity.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-203; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Contracts in restraint of trade generally void, 28-2-703.
Unlawful restraint of trade, 30-14-205.

61-4-404. Threats prima facie evidence. Any threat, expressed or implied, made directly or indirectly to any dealer by any manufacturer or by any person who is engaged in the business of financing the purchase or sale of motor vehicles and is affiliated with or controlled by any manufacturer that the manufacturer will cease to sell or will terminate or refuse to enter into a contract to sell motor vehicles to the dealer unless the dealer finances the purchase or sale of any motor vehicles only with or through a designated person is presumed to be made at the direction of and with the authority of the manufacturer. The threat is prima facie evidence of the fact that the manufacturer has sold or intends to sell the motor vehicles on the condition or under the agreement prohibited by the provisions of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-204; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Evidence, Title 26.
When apparent consent not free, 28-2-401.

61-4-405. Penalty. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this part and any employee, agent, or officer of any such person who shall participate in any manner in making, enforcing, or performing or in aiding or abetting in the performance of any such contract, condition, agreement, or understanding shall be deemed guilty of a crime and upon conviction thereof shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not more than $5,000 or by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than 5 years or in the county jail for not more than 1 year or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-205.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.

61-4-406. Suit for injury to business or property. In addition to the criminal and civil penalties provided in this part, any person who is injured in the person's business or property by any other person or corporation or association or partnership by reason of anything forbidden or declared to be unlawful by this part may sue for damages in any court having jurisdiction in the county where the defendant resides or is found or any agent resides or is found or where service may be obtained, without respect to the amount in controversy, and recover twice the amount of damages sustained and the costs of suit. Whenever it appears to the court before which any proceedings under this part may be pending that the ends of justice require that other parties must be brought before the court, the court may cause them to be made parties defendant and summoned, whether or not they reside in the county where the action is pending.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 144, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 51-206; amd. Sec. 1943, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.
When exemplary damages allowed, 27-1-221.

Part 5
New Motor Vehicle Warranties — Remedies

Part Cross-References

U.C.C. — sales — warranty provisions, 30-2-312 through 30-2-318.
Seller's responsibilities, Title 30, ch. 11, part 2.
"Consumer Protection Act", Title 30, ch. 14, part 1.

61-4-501. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Collateral charge" means all governmental charges, including but not limited to sales tax, property tax, license and registration fees, and fees in lieu of tax.

(2) "Consumer" means the purchaser or lessee, other than for purposes of resale or lease, of a passenger motor vehicle used for personal, family, or household purposes that has not been brought into nonconformity as the result of abuse, neglect, or unauthorized modifications or alterations. The term includes any person to whom the passenger motor vehicle is transferred for the same purposes during the duration of an express warranty applicable to the passenger motor vehicle and any other person entitled by the terms of the warranty to enforce the obligations of the warranty.

(3) "Incidental damage" means incidental and consequential damage as defined in 30-2-715.

(4) "Manufacturer" has the meaning applied to that word in 61-4-201.

(5) (a) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle, including the nonresidential portion of a motor home, propelled by its own power, designed primarily to transport persons or property upon the public highways, and sold or registered in this state.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a truck with 15,000 pounds or more gross vehicle weight rating; or

(ii) components, systems, fixtures, appliances, furnishings, accessories, and features that are designed, used, and maintained primarily for residential purposes.

(6) "Reasonable allowance for use" is an amount directly attributable to use of the motor vehicle by the consumer and any previous consumers prior to the first written notice of the nonconformity to the manufacturer or its agent and during any subsequent period when the motor vehicle is not out of service because of nonconformity. The reasonable allowance for use must be computed by multiplying the total contract price of the motor vehicle by a fraction having as its denominator 100,000 and having as its numerator the number of miles that the motor vehicle traveled prior to the manufacturer's acceptance of its return.

(7) "Warranty period" means the period ending 2 years after the date of the original delivery to the consumer of a new motor vehicle or during the first 18,000 miles of operation, whichever is earlier.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 2007.

61-4-502. Notice — warranty enforceable after warranty period — when. (1) If a consumer notifies in writing the manufacturer or its agent during the warranty period that a new motor vehicle does not conform to all applicable express warranties, the repairs necessary to conform the new motor vehicle to the express warranties shall be made by or at the expense of the warrantor, regardless of the expiration of the warranty period after notification of nonconformity is given by the consumer.

(2) The warranty period of an express warranty is extended to equal the time that repair services are not available because of war or invasion or because of strike or fire, flood, or other natural disaster. The presumption provided herein may not apply against a manufacturer who has not received prior written notification from or on behalf of the consumer and has not had an opportunity to cure the alleged defect.

(3) The manufacturer must clearly and conspicuously disclose to the consumer in the warranty or owner's manual that written notification of a nonconformity is required before a consumer may be eligible for a refund or replacement of the vehicle. The manufacturer must include with the warranty or owner's manual the name and address where the written notification must be sent.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 1983; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 744, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Construction of terms of notice, 1-4-108.
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

61-4-503. Replacement for nonconformity to warranty. (1) If after a reasonable number of attempts the manufacturer or its agent or authorized dealer is unable, during the warranty period, to conform the new motor vehicle to any applicable express warranty by repairing or correcting any defect or condition that substantially impairs the use and market value or safety of the motor vehicle to the consumer, the manufacturer shall replace it with a new motor vehicle of the same model and style and of equal value, unless for reasons of lack of availability replacement is impossible, in which case the manufacturer shall replace it with a motor vehicle of comparable market value.

(2) As an alternative to replacement, the manufacturer may accept return of the new motor vehicle from the consumer upon refund to the consumer of the full purchase price, plus reasonable collateral charges and incidental damages, less a reasonable allowance for the consumer's use of the motor vehicle. The refund must be paid to the consumer and to a lienholder, if any, in proportion to their interests.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 181, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Security interests, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

61-4-504. Reasonable number of attempts — presumption. A reasonable number of attempts to conform a new motor vehicle to the applicable express warranties is presumed to have been made for purposes of 61-4-503(1) if:

(1) the same nonconformity has been subject to repair four or more times by the manufacturer or its agent or authorized dealer during the warranty period but the nonconformity continues to exist; or

(2) the motor vehicle is out of service because of nonconformity for a cumulative total of 30 or more business days during the warranty period after notification of the manufacturer, agent, or dealer.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Presumptions, Title 26, ch. 1, part 6.

61-4-505. Dealer exemption — liability to manufacturer. (1) This part does not impose any liability on a dealer or create a cause of action by a consumer against a dealer under 61-4-503.

(2) A dealer is not liable to a manufacturer for any refunds or motor vehicle replacements in the absence of evidence indicating that repairs made by the dealer were carried out in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer's instructions.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-4-506. Provisions nonexclusive — applicability of U.C.C. — defenses. (1) The provisions of this part do not limit the rights or remedies available to a consumer under any other law.

(2) All express warranties arising from the sale of a new motor vehicle are subject to the provisions of Title 30, chapter 2, part 3.

(3) It is an affirmative defense to a claim brought under this part that an alleged nonconformity does not substantially impair the use, market value, or safety of the motor vehicle or that the nonconformity is the result of abuse, neglect, or unauthorized modification or alteration of a motor vehicle by the consumer.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-4-507. Exhaustion of remedies under federal law. The provisions of 61-4-503 are not applicable against a manufacturer who has established an informal dispute settlement procedure certified by the department to be in substantial compliance with the provisions of Title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, part 703, unless the consumer has first resorted to that procedure without satisfaction.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 144, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 280, L. 2005.**

61-4-508 through 61-4-510 reserved.

61-4-511. Manufacturer's dispute settlement procedure — certification — prohibited contents. (1) A manufacturer who has established an informal dispute settlement procedure under the provisions of Title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, part 703, shall submit a copy of the procedure to the department. The department shall issue a certificate of approval to a manufacturer whose procedure complies in all respects with the federal regulations and subsection (2) and shall maintain a record of the manufacturer's procedures certified. The department may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of records, documents, or other evidence necessary to the department in an investigation related to the certification of a manufacturer's informal dispute settlement procedure.

(2) A manufacturer's informal dispute settlement procedure must afford the consumer or the consumer's representative an opportunity to appear and present evidence in Montana at a location reasonably convenient to the consumer and, further, may not include any practices that:

(a) delay a decision in any dispute beyond 60 days after the date on which the consumer initially resorts to the dispute settlement procedure;

(b) delay performance of remedies awarded in a settlement beyond 10 days after a decision, except that a manufacturer may have 30 days following the date of decision to replace a motor vehicle or make refund to the consumer as provided in 61-4-503;

(c) require the consumer to make the motor vehicle available for inspection by a manufacturer's representative more than once;

(d) fail to consider in decisions any remedies provided by this part; or

(e) require the consumer to take any action or assume any obligation not specifically authorized under the federal regulations referred to in subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 280, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Subpoenas and witnesses, Title 26, ch. 2.

61-4-512. Annual audit — revocation or suspension of certification. (1) A manufacturer establishing an informal dispute resolution procedure shall file with the department a copy of the annual audit required under Title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, part 703, along with any additional information that the department may require, including the number of refunds and replacements made by the manufacturer during the period audited.

(2) The department may, after notice and hearing as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, suspend or revoke the certification of a manufacturer's informal dispute resolution procedure upon a finding that the procedure is being used to create hardship to consumers. The department may consider the revocation or suspension in licensing manufacturers under Title 61, chapter 4, part 2.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 280, L. 2005.**

61-4-513 and 61-4-514 reserved.

61-4-515. Arbitration procedure. (1) The department shall provide an independent forum and arbitration procedure for the settlement of disputes between consumers and manufacturers of motor vehicles that do not conform to all applicable warranties under the provisions of this part. The procedure must conform to Title 27, chapter 5. All arbitration must take place in Montana at a place reasonably convenient to the consumer.

(2) Except as provided in 61-4-520, a consumer owning a motor vehicle that fails to conform to all applicable warranties may bring a grievance before an arbitrator only if the manufacturer of the motor vehicle has not established an informal dispute settlement procedure that has been certified by the department under 61-4-511.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 280, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

61-4-516. Selection of arbitrator. An arbitrator for a grievance under this part must be chosen by the department. The department shall maintain a list of persons willing to serve as an arbitrator.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 280, L. 2005.**

61-4-517. Implementation of arbitration. (1) A consumer may initiate a request for arbitration by filing a notice with the department. The consumer shall file, on a form prescribed by the department, any information considered relevant to the resolution of the dispute and shall return the form, along with a $100 filing fee, within 5 days after receiving the form. The form must offer the consumer the choice of presenting any subsequent testimony orally or in writing, but not both.

(2) The department shall determine whether the complaint alleges the violation of any applicable warranty under this part. If the department determines that a complaint does not allege a warranty violation, it shall refund the filing fee.

(3) Upon acceptance of a complaint, the department shall notify the manufacturer of the filing of a request for arbitration and shall obtain from the manufacturer, on a form prescribed by the department, any information considered relevant to the resolution of the dispute. The manufacturer shall return the form within 15 days of receipt, with a filing fee of $750.

(4) Fees collected under this section must be deposited in a special revenue account for the use of the department in administering this part.

(5) The manufacturer's fee provided in subsection (3) is due only if the department's arbitration procedures are used.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 280, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 84, L. 2007.**

61-4-518. Arbitration — role of department of justice — expert. (1) The department shall investigate, gather, and organize all information necessary for a fair and timely decision in each dispute. The department may, on behalf of the arbitrator, issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, papers, and records relevant to the dispute.

(2) If requested by the arbitrator, the department may forward a copy of all written testimony and documentary evidence to an independent technical expert certified by the national institute of automotive excellence. The expert may review the material and be available to advise and consult with the arbitrator. The expert, at the arbitrator's request, may be present whenever oral testimony is presented.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 280, L. 2005.

61-4-519. Action by arbitrator — decision. (1) The arbitrator shall, as expeditiously as possible but not later than 60 days after the department has accepted a complaint, render a fair decision based on the information gathered and disclose the arbitrator's findings and reasoning to the parties.

(2) The decision must provide appropriate remedies, including but not limited to:

(a) repair of the motor vehicle;

(b) replacement of the motor vehicle with an identical motor vehicle or a comparable motor vehicle acceptable to the consumer;

(c) refund as provided in 61-4-503(2);

(d) any other remedies available under the applicable warranties or 15 U.S.C. 2301 through 2312, as in effect on October 1, 1983; or

(e) reimbursement of expenses and costs to the prevailing party.

(3) The decision must specify a date for performance and completion of all awarded remedies. The department shall contact the prevailing party within 10 working days after the date for performance to determine whether performance has occurred. The parties shall act in good faith in abiding by any decision. In addition, if the decision is not accepted, the parties shall follow the provisions of Title 27, chapter 5. If the court determines that the appellant has acted without good cause in bringing an appeal of an award, the court, in its discretion, may grant to the respondent costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 360, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 280, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-520. Nonconforming procedure — arbitration de novo. A consumer injured by the operation of any procedure that does not conform with procedures established by a manufacturer pursuant to 61-4-511 and the provisions of Title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, part 703, may appeal any decision rendered as the result of the procedure by requesting arbitration de novo of the dispute by a department arbitrator. Filing procedures and fees for appeals must be the same as those required in 61-4-515 through 61-4-517. The findings of the manufacturer's informal dispute settlement procedure are admissible in evidence at the department's arbitration hearing and in any civil action arising out of any warranty obligation or matter related to the dispute.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 203, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 280, L. 2005.

61-4-521 through 61-4-524 reserved.

61-4-525. Notice on resale of replaced motor vehicle. A motor vehicle that is returned to the manufacturer and that requires replacement or refund may not be sold in the state without a clear and conspicuous written disclosure of the fact that the motor vehicle was returned. The department may prescribe by rule the form and content of the disclosure statement and a procedure by which the disclosure may be removed upon a determination that the motor vehicle is no longer defective.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 280, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-4-526. Records of disputes. The department shall maintain records of each dispute as it determines appropriate, including an index of disputes by brand name and model. The department shall, at intervals of no more than 6 months, compile and maintain statistics indicating the record of compliance with arbitration decisions and the number of refunds or replacements awarded. The statistical summary must be considered by the department in determining the issuance of any manufacturer license required under Title 61, chapter 4, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 280, L. 2005.

61-4-527 through 61-4-530 reserved.

61-4-531. Nondelegable. The liabilities and obligations contained in this part may not be delegated or assigned to or assumed by any other person or entity.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 744, L. 1985.

61-4-532. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 744, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 280, L. 2005.

61-4-533. Penalty. A violation of any provision of this part is an unfair or deceptive trade practice under Title 30, chapter 14, part 2, and the penalties provided in 30-14-224(1) apply.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 744, L. 1985.

CHAPTER 5
DRIVER'S LICENSES

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Chapter Cross-References

Driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Providing information to selective service system, 61-5-126.
Release of individual driving record, 61-11-105.
Montana identification card, 61-12-501.

Part 1
Licensing Provisions

61-5-101. Driver licensing responsibilities of department. (1) The department shall maintain a permanent place of business at the state capital and shall provide the necessary staff, facilities, and equipment for the purpose of providing driver's license services as required by this part.

(2) The department shall provide an examiner to administer a commercial driver's license or motor vehicle driver's license examination in any county of the state if the examination is previously scheduled through the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-117; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Continuity of government, Art. III, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.

61-5-102. Drivers to be licensed — penalty. (1) (a) Except as provided in 61-5-104, a person may not drive a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the person has a valid Montana driver's license. A person may not receive a Montana driver's license until the person surrenders to the department all valid driver's licenses issued by any other jurisdiction. A person may not have in the person's possession or under the person's control more than one valid Montana driver's license at any time.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), the penalty for a violation of this section is a fine of not more than $500.

(c) A person who is eligible to hold a driver's license and has obtained a valid driver's license but has not renewed the license as provided in 61-5-111(3)(c) is not subject to the penalty in subsection (1)(b).

(2) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsections (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii), a license is not valid for the operation of a motorcycle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110 and the license has been clearly marked with the words "motorcycle endorsement".

(ii) A motorcycle endorsement is not required for the operation of a low-speed electric vehicle or a motorcycle that is propelled by an electric motor or other device that transforms stored electrical energy into the motion of the vehicle, has a fully enclosed cab, is equipped with three wheels in contact with the ground, and is equipped with a seat and seatbelts.

(iii) A motorcycle endorsement is not required for the operation of an autocycle or a three-wheeled motorcycle.

(b) A license is not valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110, the license has been clearly marked with the words "commercial driver's license", and the license bears the proper endorsement for:

(i) the specific vehicle type or types being operated; or

(ii) the passengers or type or types of cargo being transported.

(3) A low-speed restricted driver's license is not valid for the operation of a motor vehicle other than a low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart.

(4) When a city or town requires a licensed driver to obtain a local driving license or permit, a license or permit may not be issued unless the applicant presents a state driver's license valid under the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-125(a) thru (c); (4)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 233, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of motor vehicles, 7-14-4103.
General licensing power of municipalities, 7-21-4101.

61-5-103. Residency requirement. (1) A person who has resided in Montana for more than 60 consecutive days is considered to be a resident for the purpose of being licensed to operate a motor vehicle and must be licensed under the laws of Montana before operating a motor vehicle.

(2) A person who has resided in Montana for more than 30 consecutive days:

(a) is considered to be a resident for the purpose of being licensed to operate a commercial motor vehicle; and

(b) must be licensed under the laws of Montana before operating any commercial motor vehicle.

(3) The department may issue a commercial driver's license to a person who is not a resident of Montana or domiciled in Montana only if:

(a) the person is domiciled in a foreign country with commercial driver's license standards, as determined by the federal motor carrier safety administration of the department of transportation, that are not similar to the testing and licensing standards provided in 49 CFR, part 383, subparts F, G, and H; or

(b) the person is domiciled in a state that is prohibited by the federal motor carrier safety administration from issuing commercial driver's licenses under 49 CFR 384.405.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-125(d); amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.

Commercial motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.

61-5-104. Exemptions. (1) The following persons are exempt from licensure under this chapter:

(a) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States while operating a motor vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government and being operated on official business;

(b) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty in Montana who holds a valid license issued by another state and the spouse of the person who holds a valid license issued by another state;

(c) a person on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and in immediate possession of a valid license issued to that person in a foreign country by the armed forces of the United States, for a period of 45 days from the date of the person's return to the United States;

(d) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves a road machine, farm tractor, as defined in 61-9-102, or implement of husbandry for use in intrastate commerce on a highway;

(e) a person who is a locomotive engineer, assistant engineer, conductor, brake tender, railroad utility person, or other member of the crew of a railroad locomotive or train being operated upon rails, including operation on a railroad crossing a public street, road, or highway. A person employed as described in this subsection is not required to display a driver's license to a law enforcement officer in connection with the operation of a railroad train within Montana.

(f) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves an off-highway vehicle on a forest development road in this state, as defined in 61-8-110, that has been designated and approved for off-highway vehicle use by the United States forest service if the person:

(i) is under 16 years of age but at least 12 years of age; and

(ii) at the time of driving, operating, or moving the off-highway vehicle, has in the person's possession a certificate showing the successful completion of an off-highway vehicle safety education course approved by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and is in the physical presence of a person who possesses a license issued under this chapter.

(2) A nonresident who is at least 15 years of age and who is in immediate possession of a valid operator's license issued to the nonresident by the nonresident's home state or country may operate a motor vehicle, except a commercial motor vehicle, in this state.

(3) (a) A nonresident who is in immediate possession of a valid commercial driver's license issued to the nonresident by the nonresident's home jurisdiction, in accordance with the licensing and testing standards of 49 CFR, part 383, may operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state.

(b) For the purpose of this chapter, "jurisdiction" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, a province or territory of Canada, or the federal district of Mexico.

(4) A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age, whose home state or country does not require the licensing of operators, may operate a motor vehicle as an operator only, for a period of not more than 90 days in any calendar year, if the motor vehicle is registered in the home state or country of the nonresident.

(5) (a) A driver's license issued under this chapter to a person who enters the United States armed forces, if valid and in effect at the time that the person enters the service, continues in effect so long as the service continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law, and for up to 90 days following the date on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service.

(b) A person serving in the United States armed forces may renew the person's driver's license at any point of the person's service, and any renewed license continues in effect as long as the service continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law.

(c) A person serving in the United States armed forces may apply for a Montana driver's license upon meeting the requirements in 61-5-103, and this license continues in effect as long as the service continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law, and for up to 90 days following the date on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-126; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 454, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 536, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans, Art. II, sec. 35, Mont. Const.

Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.

61-5-105. Who may not be licensed. The department may not issue a license under this chapter to a person:

(1) who is under 16 years of age unless:

(a) the person is at least 15 years of age and has passed a driver's education course approved by the department and the superintendent of public instruction; or

(b) the person is at least 13 years of age and, because of individual hardship, to be determined by the department, needs a restricted license;

(2) whose license or driving privilege is currently suspended, revoked, or canceled, except as provided in 61-5-232, or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle in this or any state, as evidenced by an ineligible status report from the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, or from the commercial driver's license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309;

(3) who is addicted to the use of alcohol or narcotic drugs;

(4) who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who, at the time of application, has not been restored to competency by the methods provided by law;

(5) who is required by this chapter to take an examination;

(6) who has not deposited proof of financial responsibility when required under the provisions of chapter 6 of this title;

(7) who has any condition characterized by lapse of consciousness or control, either temporary or prolonged, that is or may become chronic. However, the department may, in its discretion, issue a license to an otherwise qualified person suffering from a condition if the afflicted person's attending physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, attests in writing that the person's condition has stabilized and would not be likely to interfere with that person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely and, if a commercial driver's license is involved, the person is physically qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle under applicable state or federal regulations.

(8) who lacks the functional ability, due to a physical or mental disability or limitation, to safely operate a motor vehicle on the highway;

(9) who is not a resident of or domiciled in Montana except as provided in 61-5-103(3); or

(10) whose presence in the United States is not authorized under federal law. When an applicant who is not a citizen of the United States applies for a driver's license, the department shall verify that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States by using the federal systematic alien verification for entitlements program. The department may not accept a driver's license issued by another state as proof that an applicant is lawfully present in the United States under federal law.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 31-127; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Confidentiality of tax records, 15-30-2618.
Traffic education, Title 20, ch. 7, part 5.
Report to Department of Justice by physician, 37-2-311.
Revocation defined, 61-1-101.
Suspension defined, 61-1-101.
Financial responsibility, Title 61, ch. 6, part 1.

61-5-106. Learner licenses — traffic education permits — temporary driver's permits. (1) (a) The department may issue a learner license, which is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance, to a person satisfying the age requirements specified in 61-5-105(1) after the applicant has successfully passed the knowledge test and the vision examination, as provided in 61-5-110. Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), a learner license entitles the licensee, while in immediate possession of the license and accompanied by a licensed driver seated beside the licensee, to drive a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle upon the public highways.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii), if the licensee is under 18 years of age, the driver supervising the licensee must be a parent or a legal guardian of the licensee or, with the permission of the licensee's parent or legal guardian, a licensed driver 18 years of age or older. Each occupant of a motor vehicle driven by a licensee who is under 18 years of age shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt or, if 61-9-420 applies, must be properly restrained in a child safety restraint.

(ii) If the licensee is a ward of the state, the driver supervising the licensee must be a licensed driver 18 years of age or older.

(c) A person holding a learner license for a motorcycle may drive a motorcycle upon a public highway if the person is not carrying a passenger, has immediate possession of the license, and is under the immediate and proximate visual supervision of one of the following persons, who must be at least 18 years of age if the licensee is under 18 years of age:

(i) a motorcycle-endorsed licensed driver who is riding with the licensee and who is operating a separate motorcycle or other motor vehicle; or

(ii) a licensed driver who is operating a separate motor vehicle if the licensee has successfully completed a motorcycle safety training course through a cooperative driver testing program certified under 61-5-110.

(2) The department may issue a learner license, which is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance, to any person who is at least 14½ years of age and who has successfully completed or is successfully participating in a traffic education course approved by the department and the superintendent of public instruction and that is available to all who meet the age requirements specified in 20-7-503 and reside within the geographical boundaries of or attend a school in the school district that offers the course. A learner license entitles the licensee to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by an approved instructor, a licensed parent or guardian, or other driver as provided in subsection (1)(b) and may be restricted to specific times or areas.

(3) (a) An instructor of a traffic education program approved by the department and by the superintendent of public instruction may issue a traffic education permit that is effective for a school year or more restricted period to an applicant who is enrolled in a traffic education program approved by the department and who meets the age requirements specified in 20-7-503.

(b) When in immediate possession of the traffic education permit, the permittee may operate on a designated highway or within a designated area:

(i) a motor vehicle when an approved instructor is seated beside the permittee; or

(ii) a motorcycle or quadricycle when under the immediate and proximate supervision of an approved instructor.

(4) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary driver's permit to an applicant for a driver's license permitting the applicant to operate a motor vehicle while the department is completing its investigation and determination of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a driver's license. The temporary driver's permit must be in the permittee's immediate possession while operating a motor vehicle, and it is invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been refused.

(5) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary commercial driver's license to an applicant permitting the applicant to operate a commercial motor vehicle while the department is completing its investigation and determination of all facts relative to the applicant's right to receive a commercial driver's license. The temporary license must be in the applicant's immediate possession while operating a commercial motor vehicle and is invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been refused.

(6) The department may in its discretion issue a temporary medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit, as provided in 61-5-120.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-129; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 297, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 570, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Traffic education, Title 20, ch. 7, part 5.

61-5-107. Application for license or motorcycle endorsement. (1) Each application for a learner license, driver's license, commercial driver's license, or motorcycle endorsement must be made on a form furnished by the department. A voter registration form for mail registration as prescribed by the secretary of state must be attached to each driver's license application. If the applicant wishes to register to vote, the department shall accept the registration and forward the form to the election administrator.

(2) Each application must include the full legal name, date of birth, sex, as defined in 1-1-201, residence address of the applicant [and the applicant's social security number], must include a brief description of the applicant, and must provide the following additional information:

(a) the name of each jurisdiction in which the applicant has previously been licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of the application;

(b) a certification from the applicant that the applicant is not currently subject to a suspension, revocation, cancellation, disqualification, or withdrawal of a previously issued driver's license or any driving privileges in another jurisdiction and that the applicant does not have a driver's license from another jurisdiction;

(c) a brief description of any physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs or may impair the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway;

(d) a brief description of any adaptive equipment or operational restrictions that the applicant relies upon or intends to rely upon to attain the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway, including the nature of the equipment or restrictions; and

(e) if the applicant is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized under federal law, the expiration date of the official document issued to the applicant by the bureau of citizenship and immigration services of the department of homeland security authorizing the applicant's presence in the United States.

[(3) The department shall keep the applicant's social security number from this source confidential, except that the number may be used for purposes of subtitle VI of Title 49 of the U.S.C. or as otherwise permitted by state law administered by the department and may be provided to the department of public health and human services for use in administering Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.]

(4) (a) When an application is received from an applicant who is not ineligible for licensure under 61-5-105 and who was previously licensed by another jurisdiction, the department shall request a copy of the applicant's driving record from each jurisdiction in which the applicant was licensed in the preceding 10-year period. The driving record may be transmitted manually or by electronic medium.

(b) When received, the driving records must be appended to the driver's record created and maintained in this state. The department may rely on information contained in driving records received under this section to determine the appropriate action to be taken against the applicant upon subsequent receipt of a report of a conviction or other conduct requiring suspension or revocation of a driver's license under state law.

(5) An individual who is under 26 years of age but at least 15 years of age and who is required to register in compliance with the federal Military Selective Service Act, 50 App. U.S.C. 453, must be provided an opportunity to fulfill those registration requirements in conjunction with an application for a learner license, driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state identification card. If under 18 years of age but at least 15 years of age, an individual must be provided an opportunity to be registered by the selective service system upon attaining 18 years of age. Any registration information supplied on the application must be transmitted by the department to the selective service system. *(Bracketed language terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1999.)*

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-130; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 552, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 2, 15(3), Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 478, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 685, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 40, Ch. 685, L. 2023, in (2) inserted a citation to the definition of "sex". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 686, L. 2023, in (1) deleted former second sentence that read: "Each application must be accompanied by the proper fee, and payment of the fee entitles the applicant to not more than three attempts to pass the examination within a period of 6 months from the date of application." Amendment effective October 1, 2023

Contingent Termination — Request for Federal Exemptions: Section 1, Ch. 27, L. 1999, revised sec. 104, Ch. 552, L. 1997, to contain the following contingent termination provisions and order that the department of public health and human services seek federal exemptions: "(1) [Sections 9, 11, 22 through 24, and 95] [37-1-307, 40-1-107, 40-4-105, 40-5-922, 40-5-924, and 61-5-107] and the bracketed language in [sections 1 through 3, 10, 25, 45, and 89] [40-4-204, 40-5-226, 40-5-901, 40-5-906, 40-5-907, 40-5-923, and 40-6-116] terminate on the date of the suspension if the federal government suspends federal payments to this state for this state's child support enforcement program and for this state's program relating to temporary assistance to needy families because of this state's failure to enact law as required by the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

(2) [Sections 9, 11, 22 through 24, and 95] [37-1-307, 40-1-107, 40-4-105, 40-5-922, 40-5-924, and 61-5-107] and the bracketed language in [sections 1 through 3, 10, 25, 45, and 89] [40-4-204, 40-5-226, 40-5-901, 40-5-906, 40-5-907, 40-5-923, and 40-6-116] terminate on the date that a final decision is rendered in federal court invalidating the child support provisions of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

(3) If the director of the department of public health and human services certifies to the governor and the secretary of state in writing that one of the following provisions is no longer required by federal law because of repeal of or amendment to federal statutes that require that provision, the provision terminates on the date the certification takes effect:

(a) [section 9] [40-5-922];
(b) [section 11] [40-5-924];
(c) [sections 22 through 24] [37-1-307, 40-1-107, and 40-4-105];
(d) [section 95] [61-5-107];
(e) the bracketed provisions in [sections 1 through 3, 10, 25, 45, and 89] [40-4-204, 40-5-226, 40-5-901, 40-5-906, 40-5-907, 40-5-923, and 40-6-116].

(4) If the bracketed language in [sections 1 through 3, 10, 25, 45, and 89] [40-4-204, 40-5-226, 40-5-901, 40-5-906, 40-5-907, 40-5-923, and 40-6-116] terminates, the code commissioner is instructed to renumber subsections, adjust internal references, and correct grammar and arrangement." Amendment effective February 18, 1999.

Cross-References

Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Disposition of fees, 61-3-108.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.
Headgear required for minor motorcycle riders, 61-9-417.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.

61-5-108. Application of minors — imputed liability. (1) The application of a person who is under 18 years of age for a learner license, driver's license, or medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit must be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths or an employee of the department by a parent of the applicant or, if a parent is not available:

(a) by some other responsible adult who is willing to assume the obligation imposed under this chapter upon a person signing the application of a minor; or

(b) by the minor if the minor has submitted a certificate of insurance to the department pursuant to 61-6-133.

(2) Any negligence or willful misconduct of a minor who is under 18 years of age when driving a motor vehicle upon a highway must be imputed to a person who has signed the application of the minor for a learner license, driver's license, or medical and rehabilitation driving permit. The person who signs the application is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any damages caused by the negligence or willful misconduct unless a motor vehicle liability policy, as provided for in chapter 6 of this title, covering the minor is in effect, in which case there is no imputed liability as described in this section.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-131; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 419, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 570, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Rights of persons not adults, Art. II, sec. 15, Mont. Const.
Officers who may administer oaths, 1-6-101.
Multiple defendants jointly and severally liable, 27-1-703.
Liability of minor for own torts, 27-1-711.
Minor defined, 41-1-101.
Child labor, Title 41, ch. 2, part 1.
Permitting unauthorized minor to drive, 61-5-304.
Responsibility of vehicle users and owners, Title 61, ch. 6.
Guardians of minors, Title 72, ch. 5, part 2.

61-5-109. Release from liability. Any person who has signed the application of a minor for a license may thereafter file with the department a verified written request that the license of said minor so granted be canceled. Thereupon the department shall cancel the license of said minor and the person who signed the application of such minor shall be relieved from the liability imposed under this chapter by reason of having signed such application on account of any subsequent negligence or willful misconduct of such minor in operating a motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-132; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.
Cancellation of license upon death of person signing minor's application, 61-5-202.
Mandatory liability protection, Title 61, ch. 6, part 3.

61-5-110. Records check of applicants — examination of applicants — cooperative driver testing programs — reciprocal agreement with foreign country. (1) Prior to examining an applicant for a driver's license, the department shall conduct a check of the applicant's driving record by querying the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, and the commercial driver's license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309.

(2) (a) The department shall examine each applicant for a driver's license or motorcycle endorsement, except as otherwise provided in this section. The examination must include a test of the applicant's eyesight, a knowledge test examining the applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs and the applicant's knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and, except as provided in 61-5-118, a road test or a skills test demonstrating the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle or motorcycle. The road test or skills test must be performed by the applicant in a motor vehicle that the applicant certifies is representative of the class and type of motor vehicle for which the applicant is seeking a license or endorsement.

(b) The knowledge test, road test, or skills test may be waived by the department:

(i) upon certification of the applicant's successful completion of the test by a certified cooperative driver testing program as provided in subsection (4) or by a certified third-party commercial driver testing program as provided in 61-5-118; or

(ii) in accordance with a driver's license reciprocity agreement between the department and a foreign country.

(c) The skills test may be waived by the department upon the applicant's completion of the requirements of 61-5-123.

(3) The department shall, pursuant to administrative rule authority granted in 61-14-202(4), (5), and (6), conduct records checks prior to processing a nonexempt commercial driver's license application and prior to renewing, transferring, or upgrading a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit, and shall act in conformity with the legislative direction provided in 61-14-202(5) and (6) upon receiving results from records checks. The department shall implement the administrative rules on or before January 1, 2024.

(4) The department is authorized to certify as a cooperative driver testing program any state-approved high school traffic education course offered by or in cooperation with a school district that employs an approved instructor who has current endorsement from the superintendent of public instruction as a teacher of traffic education or any motorcycle safety training course approved by the board of regents and that employs an approved instructor of motorcycle safety training and who agrees to:

(a) administer standardized knowledge and road tests or skills tests required by the department to students participating in the district's high school traffic education courses or motorcycle safety training courses approved by the board of regents;

(b) certify the test results to the department; and

(c) comply with regulations of the department, the superintendent of public instruction, and the board of regents.

(5) (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, an applicant who has a driver's license issued by another jurisdiction that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year may surrender that license for a Montana license of the same class, type, and endorsement upon payment of the required fees and successful completion of a vision examination. In addition, an applicant surrendering a commercial driver's license issued by another jurisdiction shall successfully complete any examination required by federal regulations before being issued a commercial driver's license by the department.

(b) The department may require an applicant who surrenders a driver's license issued by another jurisdiction that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year to submit to a knowledge and road or skills test if:

(i) the applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; and

(ii) the surrendered license does not include readily discernible adaptive equipment or operational restrictions appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

(iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify a restriction imposed on the surrendered license.

(c) When a license from another jurisdiction is surrendered, the department shall notify the issuing agency from the other jurisdiction that the applicant has surrendered the license. If the applicant wants to retain the license from another jurisdiction for identification or other nondriving purposes, the department shall place a distinctive mark on the license, indicating that the license may be used for nondriving purposes only, and return the marked license to the applicant.

(6) The department may enter into a reciprocity agreement with a foreign country to provide for the mutual recognition and exchange of a valid driver's license issued by this state or the foreign country if the department determines that the licensing standards of the foreign country are comparable to those of this state. The agreement may not include the reciprocal exchange of a commercial driver's license.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 31-134(a); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 4, 9, Ch. 364, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 181, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 79, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 646, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section — Coordination: Section 2, Ch. 646, L. 2023, inserted new subsection (3) regarding records checks for nonexempt commercial driver's licenses; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 686, L. 2023, in (5)(a) in first sentence after "applicant who has a" deleted "valid" and after "issued by another jurisdiction" inserted "that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year"; and in (5)(b) after "applicant who surrenders a" deleted "valid" and after "issued by another jurisdiction" inserted "that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

The amendment to this section made by sec. 2, Ch. 744, L. 2023, was rendered void by sec. 6, Ch. 744, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Applicability: Section 6, Ch. 646, L. 2023, provided: "A holder of a commercial learner's permit that was issued prior to the adoption of administrative rules on or before January 1, 2024, pursuant to [section 2(3)] [61-5-110(3)] is exempt from the entry-level driver training records check requirements under [sections 2(3) and 3(4) through (6)] [61-5-110(3) and 61-14-202(4) through (6)] as long as the permit holder obtains a commercial driver's license prior to the expiration, renewal, or extension of the commercial learner's permit."

Cross-References

Report to Department of Justice by physician, 37-2-311.
Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Department to adopt sign manual, 61-8-202.

61-5-111. Contents of driver's license, renewal, license expirations, license replacements, grace period, and fees for licenses, permits, and endorsements — notice of expiration. (1) (a) The department may appoint county treasurers and other qualified officers to act as its agents for the sale of driver's license receipts. In areas in which the department provides driver licensing services 3 days or more a week, the department is responsible for sale of receipts and may appoint an agent to sell receipts.

(b) The department may enter into an authorized agent agreement with the county treasurer of any county in which the department no longer maintains a driver examination station for the purpose of providing driver's license renewal services.

(2) (a) The department, upon receipt of payment of the fees specified in this section, shall issue a driver's license to each qualifying applicant. The license must contain:

(i) a full-face photograph of the licensee in the size and form prescribed by the department;

(ii) a distinguishing number issued to the licensee;

(iii) the full legal name, date of birth, and Montana residence address unless the licensee requests use of the mailing address, except that the Montana residence address must be used for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license unless authorized by department rule;

(iv) a brief description of the licensee;

(v) either the licensee's customary manual signature or a reproduction of the licensee's customary manual signature; and

(vi) if the applicant qualifies under subsection (7), indication of the applicant's status as a veteran.

(b) The department may not use the licensee's social security number as the distinguishing number. A license is not valid until it is signed by the licensee.

(3) (a) When a person applies for renewal of a driver's license, the department shall conduct a records check in accordance with 61-5-110(1) to determine the applicant's eligibility status and shall test the applicant's eyesight. The department may also require the applicant to submit to a knowledge and road or skills test if:

(i) the renewal applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; and

(ii) the expired or expiring license does not include adaptive equipment or operational restrictions appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

(iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify the restrictions stated on the expired or expiring license.

(b) In the case of a commercial driver's license, the department shall, if the information was not provided in a prior licensing cycle, require the renewal applicant to provide the name of each jurisdiction in which the applicant was previously licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of the renewal application and may also require that the applicant successfully complete a written examination as required by federal regulations.

(c) A person is considered to have applied for renewal of a Montana driver's license if the application is made within 6 months before or 1 year after the expiration of the person's license or if the person has applied for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license pursuant to 61-5-129. Except as provided in subsection (3)(d), a person seeking to renew a driver's license shall appear in person at a Montana driver's examination station.

(d) (i) Except as provided in subsections (3)(d)(iii) through (3)(d)(v), a person may renew a driver's license by mail or online.

(ii) An applicant who renews a driver's license by mail or online shall submit a completed application and the fees required for renewal.

(iii) If the department does not have a digitized photograph and signature record of the renewal applicant from the expiring license, then the renewal applicant shall apply in person.

(iv) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), the term of a license renewed by mail or online is 12 years for a driver's license or 8 years for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license.

(v) The department may not renew a license by mail or online if:

(A) the records check conducted in accordance with 61-5-110(1) shows an ineligible license status for the applicant;

(B) the applicant holds a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement, the retention of which requires additional testing and a security threat assessment under 49 CFR, part 1572;

(C) the applicant seeks a change of address, a change of date of birth, or a name change; or

(D) the applicant's license:

(I) has been expired for more than 1 year; or

(II) except as provided in subsection (3)(f), was renewed by mail or online at the time of the applicant's previous renewal.

(e) A renewal applicant who is stationed outside Montana on active military duty may renew the license by mail or online as long as the applicant is on active military duty.

(f) The spouse or a dependent of a renewal applicant who is stationed outside Montana on active military duty may renew the applicant's license by mail or online for one additional consecutive term following a renewal by mail or online.

(g) The department shall send electronically or mail a driver's license renewal notice no earlier than 120 days and no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of a driver's license. The department shall send the notice to the licensee's Montana mailing address shown on the driver's license or, if requested by the licensee, provide the notice using an authorized method of electronic delivery, or both.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e), a license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 12 years or less after the date of issue or on the licensee's 75th birthday, whichever occurs first.

(b) A license issued to a person who is 75 years of age or older expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

(c) A license issued to a person who is under 21 years of age expires on the licensee's 21st birthday.

(d) (i) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d)(ii), a commercial driver's license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

(ii) When a person obtains a Montana commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement after surrendering a comparable commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement from another licensing jurisdiction, the license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of the issue of the surrendered license if, as reported in the commercial driver's license information system, a security threat assessment was performed on the person as a condition of issuance of the surrendered license.

(e) A license issued to a person who is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized under federal law expires, as determined by the department, no later than the expiration date of the official document issued to the person by the bureau of citizenship and immigration services of the department of homeland security authorizing the person's presence in the United States.

(5) When the department issues a driver's license to a person under 18 years of age, the license must be clearly marked with a notation that conveys the restrictions imposed under 61-5-133.

(6) (a) Upon application for a driver's license or commercial driver's license and any combination of the specified endorsements, the following fees must be paid:

(i) driver's license, except a commercial driver's license — $5 a year or fraction of a year;
(ii) motorcycle endorsement — 50 cents a year or fraction of a year;
(iii) commercial driver's license:
(A) interstate — $10 a year or fraction of a year; or
(B) intrastate — $8.50 a year or fraction of a year.

(b) A renewal notice for either a driver's license or a commercial driver's license is 50 cents.

(7) (a) Upon receiving a request from a person whose status as a veteran has been verified by the department of military affairs pursuant to 10-2-1301 and upon receiving the information and fees required in this part, the department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of the license.

(b) After a person's status as a veteran is denoted on a driver's license, the department may not require further documentation of that status from the holder of the license upon subsequent renewal or replacement.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b), an applicant may request a replacement driver's license online or by mail.

(b) If the department does not have a digitized photograph and signature record of the applicant, the applicant shall apply in person.

(c) The term of the replacement license must be the term of the applicant's current driver's license.

(9) (a) An applicant may request an expedited delivery service for a driver's license or identification card. The department shall set a fee for expedited delivery based on the cost of providing this service.

(b) The fees for expedited delivery must be deposited in the motor vehicle division administration account established in 61-3-112 and used for the purposes of expediting delivery, including actual costs for delivery, personnel, and related technology.

History: (1) thru (6)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 423, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1975; Sec. 31-135, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 199, L. 1943; Sec. 31-113, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-113, 31-135(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 276, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 726, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 364, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 29, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 558, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 297, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 478, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 242, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 322, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 398, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 445, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 566, L. 2021.

Cross-References
Adult rights — legal drinking age, Art. II, sec. 14, Mont. Const.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.
Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Disposition of fees — use, 61-3-108, 61-5-121.

61-5-112. Reciprocal agreements. The department is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements with adjacent states that would allow certain drivers of vehicles transporting farm products, farm machinery, or farm supplies within 150 miles of a farm to operate without a commercial driver's license because the vehicles are not considered commercial motor vehicles as provided in 61-1-101(10)(b)(ii).

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 94, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 31-128; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 189, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
School bus driver qualifications, 20-10-103.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.

61-5-113. Restricted licenses. (1) If, upon an applicant's completion of the vision, knowledge, and skills tests required under 61-5-110, 61-5-111, and 61-5-207, the department determines that an applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway depends on the use of adaptive equipment or operational restrictions, then the department shall include the appropriate restrictions on a license issued to the applicant. Once imposed, the restrictions may not be removed unless the department determines that the adaptive equipment or operational restrictions are no longer essential to the licensee's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway.

(2) The department may either issue a special restricted license or may include the restrictions on the usual license form.

(3) A court of competent jurisdiction may upon receiving satisfactory evidence of a violation of the restrictions of a license or endorsement suspend or revoke the license. The licensee is entitled to a hearing as upon suspension or revocation under this chapter.

(4) It is a misdemeanor for a person to operate a motor vehicle in a manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-137; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Administrative procedure — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.
Penalty for misdemeanor, 61-5-307.

61-5-114. Replacement license — veteran designation. (1) If a learner license or a driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed or a person wants to update personal information contained on a learner license or a driver's license issued to the person, the person to whom the license was issued may, upon the payment of a fee of $10, obtain a replacement license, upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that the license has been lost or destroyed or that personal information has changed.

(2) If the hazardous materials endorsement on a commercial driver's license issued under the provisions of this chapter is revoked or removed pursuant to the authority provided in 61-5-147, the person to whom the license was issued shall surrender to the department the person's commercial driver's license with the hazardous materials endorsement and may obtain, upon making application and paying a $10 fee, a replacement license that does not include a hazardous materials endorsement.

(3) The department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of a driver's license if the requirements of 61-5-111(7) are met by the person applying for the driver's license.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 121, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 31-138; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 558, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Secs. 112, 163, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Veteran status on driver's license and identification cards — documentation — rulemaking, 10-2-1301.
Disposition of fees — use, 61-3-108, 61-5-121.

61-5-115. Notice of change of address. Whenever any person after applying for or receiving a driver's license moves from the address named in the application or in the issued license, the person shall within 10 days notify the department in writing or electronically by an approved automated interface of the old and new addresses and of the number of any license then held by the person.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-140; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Notice — actual and constructive, 1-1-217.

Change of name, Title 27, ch. 31.

Marriage, Title 40, ch. 1.

61-5-116. License to be carried and exhibited on demand. (1) A licensee must have the licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the license upon demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department. However, a person charged with violating this section may not be convicted if the person produces in court or the office of the arresting officer a driver's license issued to the person and valid at the time of the person's arrest.

(2) (a) Beginning September 1, 2025, a licensee may meet the requirements of subsection (1) by having a digital or hard copy version of the licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and displaying the license upon demand.

(b) Only a digital or hard copy version of the licensee's driver's license issued and authorized by the department is sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-136; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1944, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Duties of Justices of the Peace, 3-10-221.

Highway patrol — offenses on highways, rest areas, and state highway properties adjacent to highway or involving motor vehicles, 44-1-1003.

Peace officer defined, 45-2-101.

Penalty for misdemeanor, 61-5-307.

Mandatory liability protection — proof of compliance, 61-6-302.

Power to inspect vehicle registration, receipts, and other documents, 61-12-205.

61-5-117. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 428, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 53, L. 1995.

61-5-118. Third-party commercial driver testing program — certification of testing programs and examiners — fees — test waiver. (1) The department may contract with and certify the following as a third-party commercial driver testing program to administer the approved commercial driver skills test to a Montana commercial driver's license applicant:

(a) any person, employer of commercial drivers, private driver training facility, or other private company;

(b) a postsecondary institution as defined in 20-26-603;

(c) a department, agency, or instrumentality of a local government of the state; or

(d) a department, agency, or instrumentality of a tribal government of the state.

(2) A certified third-party driver testing program shall administer the same skills test as would otherwise be administered by the department.

(3) The department may decertify a third-party commercial driver testing program for failure to comply with the department rules or federal regulations.

(4) The department may collect the following fees:

(a) a fee of $5,000 to certify a third-party commercial driver testing program and a fee of $2,500 for certification renewal;

(b) a fee of $500 to certify each third-party commercial driver examiner and a fee of $100 for certification renewal; and

(c) a fee of $25 for each successfully completed skills test to be paid by the applicant.

(5) (a) A commercial driver's license applicant who is tested under the third-party commercial driver testing program must have passed the knowledge test required by 61-5-110

and complied with commercial driver's license department rules and federal regulations and must possess a valid Montana commercial learner's permit.

(b) The road test or the skills test required by 61-5-110 may be waived by the department for a commercial driver's license applicant upon certification of the applicant's successful completion of the road test or the skills test by:

(i) a third-party commercial driver testing program certified under this section; or

(ii) a third-party commercial driver examiner from a jurisdiction that has a comparable third-party commercial driver testing program, as determined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-5-119. Definitions. (1) For the purposes of 61-5-120, "driver rehabilitation specialist" means a person who:

(a) possesses current certification from the association of driver educators for the disabled as a driver rehabilitation specialist; or

(b) (i) provides comprehensive services in the clinical evaluation of the abilities of a person with a disability to safely operate a motor vehicle, utilizing, among other things, wheelchair and seating assessment, motor vehicle modification prescription, and driver education;

(ii) (A) possesses a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation, education, or health and safety, in physical, occupational, or recreational therapy, or in a related profession; or

(B) has an equivalent of 8 years of experience in driver rehabilitation and education; and

(iii) has at least 1 year of experience in the area of driver evaluation and training for individuals with disabilities.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, "cancellation" means that a driver's license is annulled and terminated because of some error or defect or because the licensee is no longer entitled to the license. Except as provided in 61-5-201(3), the cancellation of a license is without prejudice and application for a new license may be made at any time after cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Secs. 21, 36, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-5-120. Medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit. (1) Upon the written request of a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, on a form prescribed by the department, the department may authorize a driver rehabilitation specialist to issue a temporary medical assessment and rehabilitation driving permit to a person who is not licensed to drive or whose license has expired under the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of driver assessment, rehabilitation, and training.

(2) The temporary permit may be issued only to a person who is 16 years of age or older.

(3) The permit is valid for up to 6 weeks, beginning with the date of the first evaluation of the permitholder by the driver rehabilitation specialist. The driver rehabilitation specialist shall sign and date the permit at the time of the first evaluation.

(4) The permit is valid only when the permitholder is operating a motor vehicle under the immediate supervision of the driver rehabilitation specialist during the permitholder's participation in an actual in-vehicle evaluation process.

(5) The department may extend the duration of a medical assessment and rehabilitation permit for an additional 6-week period if the driver rehabilitation specialist, licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse certifies that the permitholder needs additional time to complete the driver assessment, rehabilitation, and training process.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 242, L. 2007.

61-5-121. Disposition of fees. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the disposition of the fees from driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, commercial driver's licenses, and replacement driver's licenses provided for in 61-5-114 is as follows:

(a) (i) If the fees are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 2.5% of each driver's license fee, 2.5% of each commercial driver's license fee, and 3.75% of each replacement driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fees are collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(a)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(b) (i) If the fee is collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 3.34% of each motorcycle endorsement must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fee is collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(c) The amount of 20.7% of each driver's license fee, 16.94% of each commercial driver's license fee, and 8.75% of each replacement driver's license fee must be deposited into the state traffic education account.

(d) In addition to the amounts deposited pursuant to subsections (1)(a)(ii) and (1)(b)(ii), the remainder of each driver's license fee, each commercial driver's license fee, and each replacement driver's license fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(e) The amount of 63.46% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state motorcycle safety account in the state special revenue fund, and the amount of 33.2% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(2) (a) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and replacement driver's licenses are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the county treasurer or agent shall deposit the amounts provided for in subsections (1)(a)(i) and (1)(b)(i) into the county general fund. The county treasurer or agent shall then remit all remaining fees to the state for deposit as provided in subsections (1)(c) through (1)(e).

(b) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and replacement driver's licenses are collected by the department, it shall deposit the fees as provided in subsections (1)(a)(ii), (1)(b)(ii), and (1)(c) through (1)(e).

(3) The fee for a renewal notice, whether collected by a county treasurer, an authorized agent, or the department, must be remitted to the department for deposit in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 62, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 398, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 584, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 701, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 726, L. 1991; amd. Secs. 3, 5, Ch. 5, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 11, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 39, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 250, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 181, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 558, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 464, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Highway patrol officers' retirement, Title 19, ch. 6, part 4.
State's contribution, 19-6-404.
State traffic education account, 20-7-504.
Licenses issued to operators and chauffeurs — renewals and expiration — fees, 61-5-111.
Duplicate license, 61-5-114.

61-5-122. Low-speed restricted driver's license. (1) The department may issue a low-speed restricted driver's license to a person who is physically or otherwise impaired in a manner and degree that prevent the person from safely operating a motor vehicle across the range of speeds permitted or required on a public highway.

(2) (a) To qualify for a low-speed restricted driver's license, an applicant shall submit to the department a medical evaluation or statement from a treating physician that attests to the person's impairment and resulting inability to safely operate a motor vehicle across the range of speeds permitted or required on a public highway.

(b) The applicant must be otherwise qualified for a driver's license under this chapter and shall apply for a driver's license under 61-5-107, pay the fees required in 61-5-111, and pass the vision test, the knowledge test, and the road test required under 61-5-110. The road test must be modified to conform to the operational limitations of the vehicle.

(3) The department may issue a low-speed restricted learner license, valid for 30 days from the date of issuance, to a person who qualifies for a low-speed restricted driver's license under this section and who passes the vision test and knowledge test required in 61-5-110. A licensee may operate a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart pursuant to 61-8-378 while in the immediate possession of the license and accompanied by a licensed driver seated beside the licensee.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

61-5-123. Waiver of skills test or knowledge test related to military commercial motor vehicles experience. (1) As used in this section, "current or former military service member" means a person:

(a) honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States;

(b) currently serving in the armed forces of the United States;

(c) serving full-time in a reserve component, as defined in 37-1-138; or

(d) honorably discharged from the reserve component after serving full-time in the reserve component.

(2) The department may waive the skills test, knowledge test, or both, required for a commercial driver's license if an applicant is a current or former military service member and meets the conditions in subsection (3), (4), or (5).

(3) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the skills test shall:

(a) certify and provide evidence that the member:

(i) is or was regularly employed within the last year in a military position requiring operation of a commercial motor vehicle;

(ii) was exempted from the commercial driver's license requirements in 61-8-803; and

(iii) was operating, for at least 2 years immediately preceding separation from the military, a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle type the driver applicant operates or expects to operate; and

(b) certify that during the 2-year period immediately prior to applying for a commercial driver's license, the member:

(i) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

(ii) has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;

(iii) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in 61-8-802;

(iv) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

(v) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at fault.

(4) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the knowledge test shall certify and provide evidence that during the 1-year period immediately prior to the application, the member:

(a) is or was regularly employed and designated as a:

(i) motor transport operator—88M (Army);

(ii) PATRIOT launching station operator—14T (Army);

(iii) fueler—92F (Army);

(iv) vehicle operator—2T1 (Air Force);

(v) fueler—2F0 (Air Force);

(vi) pavement and construction equipment operator—3E2 (Air Force);

(vii) motor vehicle operator—3531 (Marine Corps); or

(viii) equipment operator—E.O. (Navy);

(b) is operating a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle type the driver applicant expects to operate on separation from the military or operated a similar vehicle type immediately preceding separation from the military;

(c) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

(d) has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;

(e) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in 61-8-802;

(f) has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in 61-8-803;

(g) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

(h) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at fault.

(5) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the applicable skills and knowledge tests for a passenger, tank vehicle, or hazardous materials endorsement shall certify and provide evidence that during the 1-year period immediately prior to the application, the member:

(a) is or was regularly employed in a military position requiring:

(i) operation of a passenger commercial motor vehicle if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a passenger endorsement;

(ii) operation of a tank vehicle if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a tank vehicle endorsement; or

(iii) transportation of hazardous materials if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a hazardous materials endorsement;

(b) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

(c) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in 61-8-802;

(d) has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in 61-8-803;

(e) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

(f) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at fault.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 445, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 2021.**

61-5-124 reserved.

61-5-125. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 478, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 323, L. 2017.**

61-5-126. Providing information to selective service system. At the request of the director of the selective service system, provided for in 50 App. U.S.C. 460, the department shall provide a list of persons born in specified years who are holders of driver's licenses for the exclusive purpose of ensuring compliance with the military draft registration requirements of the federal Military Selective Service Act (50 App. U.S.C. 451, et seq.). The department shall notify the persons that information regarding them was released to the selective service system. The department may not provide the selective service system with the social security or driver's license numbers of persons on the list for any purpose.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 663, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 251, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

61-5-127. Providing list of licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards for jury selection purposes. (1) On the second Monday of April of each year, the department shall submit to the office of court administrator a list, prepared from the department's databases of licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards, showing the name, address, and date of birth of all licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards, authorized by 61-12-501, who are 18 years of age or older. The list must be compiled on a county-by-county basis and be further divided by the city of residence of the persons named on the list to enable the drawing of lists for city courts that are composed of only those residents living within a city's jurisdiction. The list must be provided for the exclusive purpose of making a list of persons to serve as trial jurors for the ensuing year.

(2) The list submitted by the department under subsection (1) must be certified by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

(3) The department may not provide the social security or driver's license numbers of persons on the list for any purpose.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 133, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 24, L. 2017.**

61-5-128. *(Temporary)* **Legislative direction to state agency to implement REAL ID Act.** The state of Montana shall participate in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13. The department, including the motor vehicle division of the department, is directed to implement the provisions of the REAL ID Act of 2005. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 443, L. 2017.)*

61-5-128. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Legislative finding and direction to state agency not to implement REAL ID Act.** (1) The legislature finds that the enactment into law by the U.S. congress of the REAL ID Act of 2005, as part of Public Law 109-13, is inimical to the security and well-being of the people of Montana, will cause unneeded expense and inconvenience to those people, and was adopted by the U.S. congress in violation of the principles of federalism contained in the 10th amendment to the U.S. constitution.

(2) The state of Montana will not participate in the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005. The department, including the motor vehicle division of the department, is directed not to implement the provisions of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and to report to the governor any attempt by agencies or agents of the U.S. department of homeland security to secure the implementation of the REAL ID Act of 2005 through the operations of that division and department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 198, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 443, L. 2017, provided: "If the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, is repealed or if the federal government notifies the state of Montana that compliance with the REAL ID Act is not required, then [this act] is void."

61-5-129. *(Temporary)* **REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card — voluntary application.** (1) The department shall issue a Montana driver's license or identification card that complies with the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, to each qualifying applicant.

(2) (a) When required to obtain a Montana driver's license or identification card, a person may choose to apply for either a standard driver's license or identification card, or for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or REAL ID-compliant identification card.

(b) A person may not hold a valid standard driver's license or identification card and a valid REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card at the same time.

(3) (a) A REAL ID-compliant driver's license issued pursuant to this section is subject to the other requirements of obtaining, renewing, and using a standard driver's license issued pursuant to this chapter.

(b) A REAL ID-compliant identification card issued pursuant to this section is subject to the other requirements of obtaining, renewing, and using a standard identification card issued pursuant to Title 61, chapter 12, part 5, and this chapter.

(4) (a) In addition to the fees charged to apply for or renew a standard driver's license under 61-5-111(6) and the fees charged to apply for a standard identification card under 61-12-504, the department may charge the following additional fees

for a person who is applying for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card during or prior to a renewal period specified in 61-5-111(3)(c), the additional fee is $25.

(b) The fees collected under this subsection (4) must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to be used to fund the equipment and staffing necessary to provide REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 443, L. 2017.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 566, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 14, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 443, L. 2017, provided: "If the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, is repealed or if the federal government notifies the state of Montana that compliance with the REAL ID Act is not required, then [this act] is void."

61-5-130 reserved.

61-5-131. Purpose. The purpose of 61-5-131 through 61-5-135 is to create a graduated driver's licensing program that will allow persons under 18 years of age to progressively develop and improve their driving skills in the safest possible environment and that will improve highway safety by reducing the disproportionately high incidence of motor vehicle accidents involving minors.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2005.

61-5-132. Prerequisites for issuance of driver's license to minor. (1) The department may issue a driver's license, subject to the restrictions of 61-5-133, to a person under 18 years of age if the person:

(a) has held a learner license or traffic education permit for a period of not less than 6 months;

(b) has passed a road test or a skills test, as provided in 61-5-110;

(c) (i) has successfully completed a traditional traffic education course approved pursuant to 20-7-503(1) and presents written certification from the person's parent or legal guardian, or if none is available, a responsible adult with knowledge of the person's driving experience, that states that the person has had at least 50 hours of driving experience, 10 of which were at night, during which the person was supervised by a parent, a legal guardian, or a person at least 18 years of age, with the consent of the parent or legal guardian, who had a valid driver's license; or

(ii) has successfully completed an alternative traffic education course approved by the department of justice and presents written certification from the person's parent or legal guardian that states the person has had at least 75 hours of driving experience, 15 of which were at night, during which the person was supervised by a parent, legal guardian, or a person at least 18 years of age, with the consent of the parent or legal guardian, who had a valid driver's license; and

(d) presents written certification from the person's parent or legal guardian, or if none is available, a responsible adult with knowledge of the person's legal history, that states that, during the 6-month period immediately preceding application for a driver's license, the person has not been convicted of a traffic violation or convicted of or adjudicated for an offense involving the use of alcohol or drugs and the person has no pending traffic, alcohol, or drug citations.

(2) If a parent or a legal guardian, or if none is available, a responsible adult with knowledge of the person's legal history, for a person under 18 years of age cannot certify that the person has a 6-month conviction-free record for traffic, alcohol, and drug violations and no pending traffic, alcohol, or drug citations, the department may extend the person's learner license for an additional 1-year period or until the person's 18th birthday, whichever occurs first.

(3) (a) The requirements of subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c) do not apply to a person under 18 years of age who has been licensed in another state for at least 6 months and surrenders a valid driver's license from that state.

(b) The requirements of subsection (1)(c) do not apply to a person under 18 years of age who, at the time of application for a driver's license, is an enrollee of a job corps program located in Montana. The department may require the applicant to provide current documentation of the applicant's job corps program enrollment status.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 570, L. 2021.

61-5-133. First year restrictions on driver's license issued to minor. (1) A driver's license issued to a person who is under 18 years of age is subject to the following restrictions for 1 year from the date of issuance of the license or until the person is 18 years of age, whichever occurs first:

(a) A restricted licensee may not operate a motor vehicle, required by 61-9-409 to be equipped with seatbelts, unless each occupant of the motor vehicle is wearing a seatbelt, as defined in 61-13-102, or is properly restrained, as required under 61-9-420. The number of motor vehicle occupants may not exceed the number of seatbelts with which the motor vehicle is equipped.

(b) A restricted licensee may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless the restricted licensee is:

(i) accompanied by a licensed driver who is 18 years of age or older or, if the restricted licensee is operating a motorcycle, the restricted licensee is under the immediate and proximate visual supervision of a licensed driver who is 18 years of age or older and who is riding with the licensee and is operating a separate motorcycle or other motor vehicle;

(ii) driving to the restricted licensee's place of employment from the restricted licensee's residence, is returning to the restricted licensee's residence from the restricted licensee's place of employment, or is driving in the course and scope of employment;

(iii) driving from the restricted licensee's residence to a school-sponsored event at a school attended by the restricted licensee, including any site for school-provided transportation to and from the event, or is returning from the event or site to the restricted licensee's residence;

(iv) driving from the restricted licensee's residence to an event sponsored by a religious organization or is returning from the event to the restricted licensee's residence;

(v) driving for a purpose related to a medical emergency, fire emergency, or law enforcement-related emergency;

(vi) driving for the sole purpose of transporting farm or ranch products, machinery, or supplies within 150 miles of a farm or ranch headquarters;

(vii) an emancipated minor; or

(viii) driving under a specific authorization for a specific purpose from the restricted licensee's parent or legal guardian. A peace officer may verify the authorization by contacting the parent or legal guardian.

(c) (i) For the first 6 months of the 1-year restriction period, a restricted licensee may not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger who is under 18 years of age unless:

(A) the restricted licensee is supervised by a licensed driver who is at least 18 years of age; or

(B) the additional passengers under 18 years of age are members of the restricted licensee's family.

(ii) For the second 6 months of the 1-year restriction period, a restricted licensee may not operate a motor vehicle with more than three passengers who are under 18 years of age unless:

(A) the restricted licensee is supervised by a licensed driver who is at least 18 years of age; or

(B) the additional passengers under 18 years of age are members of the licensee's family.

(iii) For the first 6 months of the 1-year restriction period, a restricted licensee may not operate a motorcycle with a passenger who is under 18 years of age.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "restricted licensee" includes a person under 18 years of age who holds a motorcycle-only endorsement issued by the department and the term "motor vehicle" includes a motorcycle, except when otherwise noted.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 2005.

61-5-134. Operation of motor vehicle by minor in violation of restricted first-year license — penalty. (1) A person whose driver's license is restricted under 61-5-133 may not operate a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, in violation of a restriction imposed under that section.

(2) A person convicted under this section shall be ordered to perform not less than 20 hours or more than 60 hours of community service.

(3) Upon receipt of a report of a second or subsequent conviction under this section, the department shall suspend the person's driver's license for 6 months. A probationary driver's license may not be issued during the period of suspension.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 2005.

61-5-135. Education on distracted driving. (1) The department, in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, shall encourage schools providing traffic education to include in their traffic education curriculum information regarding the dangers of physical and cognitive distractions while driving.

(2) To reduce the risks for novice drivers, the department shall include in its publications intended for novice drivers information concerning the dangers of physical and cognitive distractions while driving, including but not limited to mental inattentiveness because of stress, fatigue, heightened emotion, conversation with passengers, stereo or climate control adjustment, food and drink, use of electronic devices, and personal grooming.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 2005.

61-5-136 through 61-5-140 reserved.

61-5-141. Self-certification of operation status — medical certificate submission and tracking — notice of expiration — downgrade of license. (1) The department may not issue or renew a commercial driver's license unless the person applying for the license:

(a) certifies to the department the status of operation or expected operation of the commercial motor vehicle as being either nonexcepted interstate commerce or excepted interstate commerce, as those terms are described in 49 CFR 383.71, or intrastate commerce; and

(b) when nonexcepted interstate commerce is certified, submits to the department a current medical examiner's certificate as prescribed in 49 CFR, part 391, or when intrastate commerce is certified, submits to the department a current medical examiner's certificate as prescribed in 49 CFR, part 391, or a medical statement as prescribed by department rule.

(2) The department may not issue a commercial driver's license to a person seeking to transfer a valid commercial driver's license issued by another state driver licensing authority unless the requirements of subsection (1)(a) are met, and if the driver certifies to nonexcepted interstate commerce operation, the department shall check the person's CDLIS driver record to verify that the person's medical certification status is "certified".

(3) The department shall mail to the holder of a commercial driver's license certified for nonexcepted interstate commerce a notice of pending medical certificate expiration no earlier than 60 days and no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of the current medical certificate. The department shall mail the notice to the Montana mailing address shown on the commercial driver's license or, if more recent, the mailing address updated pursuant to 61-3-119 and 61-5-115.

(4) On or before the expiration date of the current medical certificate, the holder of a commercial driver's license certified for nonexcepted interstate commerce shall submit a new medical certificate to the department.

(5) If a new medical certificate is not submitted as required in subsection (4), the department shall, within 10 days of expiration of the current medical certificate:

(a) update the CDLIS driver record to a status of "not certified";

(b) downgrade the person's commercial driver's license; and

(c) notify the person of the status change and the license downgrade on the CDLIS driver record.

(6) The department may reinstate a commercial driver's license that was downgraded under subsection (5) if, within the original term of the downgraded license, the person:

(a) submits a current medical certificate to the department;

(b) certifies to a change in operation status to excepted interstate; or

(c) certifies to a change in operation status to intrastate and submits either a current medical examiner's certificate as prescribed in 49 CFR, part 391, or a medical statement as prescribed by department rule.

(7) Within 10 days of issuance, transfer, renewal, downgrade, or upgrade of a commercial driver's license, the department shall update the CDLIS driver record for the license holder in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR, part 383.

(8) A downgrade or subsequent upgrade of a CDLIS driver record pursuant to this section is an electronic transaction. The department may not require the surrender or replacement of a commercial driver's license under this section unless the license is expired.

(9) Unless the commercial driver's license is expired, the department may not require a license holder to take the knowledge and road or skills tests required under 61-5-110 or 61-5-111 to reinstate the commercial driver's license pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2011.**

61-5-142 through 61-5-145 reserved.

61-5-146. Limitations on issuance of hazardous materials endorsement to commercial driver's license — security threat assessment. (1) The department may not issue, transfer, or renew a hazardous materials endorsement for a person who holds a commercial driver's license unless it receives notice from the transportation security administration of the department of homeland security that:

(a) the person does not pose a security threat warranting denial of a hazardous materials endorsement;

(b) the person has been granted a waiver from the transportation security administration; or

(c) less than 4 years have elapsed since a favorable security threat assessment was performed in a former licensing jurisdiction.

(2) In addition to any requirements under this chapter and in accordance with the security threat assessment standards provided in 49 CFR, part 1572, an applicant who is seeking a hazardous materials endorsement shall:

(a) complete a separate application as prescribed by the transportation security administration;

(b) submit, as directed by the department, to a fingerprint-based background check by the transportation security administration; and

(c) pay to the agent of the transportation security administration the fees imposed under 49 CFR, part 1572, for collection and transmission of fingerprints and applicant information, processing of fingerprint identification records, and the security threat assessment and adjudication.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2005; Sec. 61-5-220, MCA 2009; redes. 61-5-146 by Sec. 12, Ch. 296, L. 2011.**

61-5-147. Authority to revoke or remove hazardous materials endorsement. (1) If the transportation security administration of the department of homeland security informs the department that a person does not meet the standards for the security threat assessment provided in 49 CFR, part 1572, the department shall revoke the person's hazardous materials endorsement to a commercial driver's license. Revocation of the hazardous materials endorsement results in immediate withdrawal of the person's authority to transport hazardous material in commerce, but does not otherwise affect the person's commercial driver's license or any unrelated endorsements.

(2) A person whose hazardous materials endorsement has been revoked or removed under this section shall surrender the person's commercial driver's license to the department and apply for a replacement license, as provided in 61-5-114, that does not include the hazardous materials endorsement.

(3) Upon surrender of a hazardous materials endorsement by a person who is disqualified from holding a hazardous materials endorsement under 49 CFR, part 1572, the department shall note the removal of the hazardous materials endorsement on its records and on the commercial driver's license information system.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 296, L. 2011; Sec. 61-5-221, MCA 2009; redes. 61-5-147 by Sec. 12, Ch. 296, L. 2011.**

61-5-148 and 61-5-149 reserved.

61-5-150. Communication restrictions. At the request of an applicant and if the applicant expresses to the department a personal communication limitation or other medical information that would be relevant to a peace officer during a traffic stop or to first responders during an emergency, the department may include an appropriate restriction on a license issued to the applicant.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 2021.**

61-5-151. Entry-level driver training — requirements — responsibilities of department of transportation. (1) The department of transportation:

(a) shall develop and implement an entry-level driver training program, including theory and behind-the-wheel training, that complies with federal requirements for class A and class B commercial driver's licenses, excluding endorsements;

(b) shall make available to the public the entry-level driver training program provided for in subsection (1)(a), which must be free of cost to Montana residents eligible to receive a commercial driver's license and must be available in each of the transportation commission districts established in 2-15-2502;

(c) may utilize various formats of entry-level driver trainings, including in-person training and asynchronous or synchronous virtual training; and

(d) may coordinate with other state agencies or organizations to develop and implement entry-level driver training.

(2) An entry-level driver training program developed by the department of transportation must include use of facilities, vehicles, and instructors sufficient to issue a commercial driver's license.

(3) The department of transportation may establish rules for the development and administration of an entry-level driver training program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 744, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 744, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 744, L. 2023, provided that this section is effective on passage and approval. Approved May 22, 2023.

2023 Enactment — Coordination: The enactment of this section by sec. 1, Ch. 744, L. 2023, was replaced by sec. 6, Ch. 744, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Part 2
Revocation, Suspension, or Cancellation of Licenses

Part Cross-References

Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Revocation defined, 61-1-101.
Suspension defined, 61-1-101.
Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses, 61-11-101.
Department of Justice to revoke license of habitual offender, 61-11-211.

61-5-201. Authority of department to cancel license. (1) The department may cancel a driver's license if it has reasonable grounds to believe that:

(a) the licensee was not entitled to the issuance;

(b) since the issuance, the licensee has become ineligible as determined pursuant to the provisions of 61-5-105;

(c) the licensee failed to give the required or correct information in the licensee's application or committed any fraud in making the application; or

(d) the licensee has applied for another driver's license or an identification card issued by the department.

(2) Upon cancellation, the licensee shall surrender the canceled license to the department.

(3) A person whose driver's license is canceled because the person failed to give the required or correct information on the application or committed any fraud in making the application is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days from the date of the cancellation.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 31-142; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 686, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404.
What constitutes actual fraud — constructive fraud, 28-2-405, 28-2-406.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.

61-5-202. Cancellation of license upon death of person signing minor's application. The department upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of the death of the persons who signed the application of a minor for a license shall cancel such license and shall not issue a new license until such time as a new application, duly signed and verified, is made as required by this chapter. This provision shall not apply in the event the minor has attained the age of 18 years.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-133; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Minor defined, 41-1-101.
Release from liability, 61-5-109.

61-5-203. Suspending privileges of nonresidents and unlicensed persons. (1) The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a nonresident pursuant to 61-5-104(2) through (4) is subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like causes as a driver's license issued under this chapter.

(2) An unlicensed person's privilege to apply for and be issued a driver's license in this state is subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like causes as a driver's license issued under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-143(a); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 83, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.

61-5-204. Suspending resident's license upon conviction in another state. The department may suspend or revoke the driver's license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a nonresident to drive a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of the person in another jurisdiction of an offense in that jurisdiction which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the driver's license.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-144; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 195, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.

61-5-205. Mandatory revocation or suspension of license upon certain convictions — duration of action — exceptions. (1) The department shall revoke an individual's driver's license or driving privilege if the department receives notice from a court or another licensing jurisdiction that the individual has been convicted of any of the following offenses:

(a) negligent homicide resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;

(b) any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;

(c) failure to stop and render aid as required under the laws of this state in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another;

(d) perjury or the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath to the department under this chapter or under any other law relating to the ownership or operation of motor vehicles;

(e) fleeing from or eluding a peace officer; or

(f) negligent vehicular assault as defined in 45-5-205 involving a motor vehicle.

(2) The department shall suspend an individual's driver's license or driving privilege if the department receives notice from a court or another licensing jurisdiction that the individual has been convicted of any of the following offenses:

(a) a driving offense under 61-8-1002;

(b) three reckless driving offenses committed within a period of 12 months; or

(c) a theft offense under 45-6-301 if the theft consisted of theft of motor vehicle fuel and a motor vehicle was used in the commission of the offense.

(3) A revocation under subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(d) through (1)(f) must be for a period of 1 year. A revocation under subsection (1)(c) must be for a period of 2 years if the offender received a felony conviction under 61-7-103.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), a suspension under subsection (2) must be for a period of 1 year.

(b) A suspension under subsection (2)(a) must be for the period set forth in 61-5-208.

(c) A suspension under subsection (2)(c) must be for one of the following periods:

(i) 30 days for a first offense;

(ii) 6 months for a second offense; and

(iii) 1 year for a third or subsequent offense.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 359, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-146; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 612, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 563, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 3, 15(1), Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 149, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Criminal justice policy — rights of convicted, Art. II, sec. 28, Mont. Const.
Licensure of criminal offenders, Title 37, ch. 1, part 2.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Negligent homicide, 45-5-104.
Minor in possession, 45-5-624.
Perjury, 45-7-201.
False swearing, 45-7-202.

Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.
Bail-jumping, 45-7-308.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.
Effect of conviction on civil rights, 46-18-801.
License reinstatement fee to fund county drinking and driving prevention programs, 61-2-107.
Duty to give information and render aid, 61-7-105.
Driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, Title 61, ch. 8, part 10.
Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses, 61-11-101.
Department of Justice to revoke license of habitual offender, 61-11-211.

61-5-206. Authority of department to suspend or revoke license or driving privilege — right to hearing. (1) The department may suspend or revoke the driver's license or driving privilege of a driver without preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee:

(a) has committed or permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of the license as specified in 61-5-302;

(b) has falsified the licensee's date of birth on the application for a driver's license;

(c) is under 21 years of age and has altered the licensee's or another's driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card to obtain alcohol; or

(d) has authorized another to use the licensee's driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card to obtain alcohol.

(2) If the department suspends or revokes a driver's license under 61-5-207 or this section or reinstates a license suspension or revocation upon conviction or forfeiture of bail not vacated of any traffic violation by a person who holds a probationary driver's license under 61-2-302, the department shall immediately notify the licensee in writing and upon the licensee's request shall afford the licensee an opportunity for a hearing as early as practical, within 20 days after receipt of the request, in the county in which the licensee resides unless the department and the licensee agree that the hearing may be held in some other county. At the hearing, the department through its authorized agent may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers and may require a reexamination of the licensee. At the hearing, the department shall either rescind its order of suspension or revocation or, for good cause, may affirm, reduce, or extend the period of suspension or revocation of the license.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-147; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 180, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Notice — actual and constructive, 1-1-217.
Administrative procedure — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.
Driver rehabilitation and improvement program, 61-2-302.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.
Required obedience to traffic laws, 61-8-104.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.
Reckless driving — penalty, 61-8-301, 61-8-715.
Careless driving — penalty, 61-8-302, 61-8-716.
Speed restrictions — basic rule, 61-8-303.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.
Habitual traffic offenders, Title 61, ch. 11, part 2.
Incapacitated person defined, 72-5-101.

61-5-207. Reexamination or medical evaluation — when required. (1) If the department receives reliable evidence that a licensed driver lacks the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway, the department may, upon written notice of at least 5 days to the licensee, require the licensee to obtain a medical evaluation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, or submit to one or more tests customarily conducted by the department for licensure under 61-5-110.

(2) Upon the review of a medical evaluation, the conclusion of testing, or both, the department may:

(a) impose restrictions on the license, as provided in 61-5-113, that are appropriate to the licensee's acknowledged or demonstrated functional abilities;

(b) suspend the license indefinitely based upon a licensee's inability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on the highway; or

(c) take no action modifying the license or placing restrictions on the licensee.

(3) The age of a licensee, by itself, does not constitute evidence of a condition requiring a reexamination or a medical evaluation.

(4) A suspension under this section continues in effect until evidence satisfactory to the department establishes that the licensee has regained the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle on a highway.

(5) Refusal or neglect of the licensee to obtain a medical evaluation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse or submit to testing as required by the department is grounds for suspension of the person's license.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-148; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 419, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 242, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Report to Department of Justice by physician, 37-2-311.
Incapacitated person defined, 72-5-101.

61-5-208. Period of suspension or revocation — limitation on issuance of probationary license — notation on driver's license. (1) The department may not suspend or revoke a driver's license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways, except as permitted by law.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 44-4-1205 and 61-2-302 and except as otherwise provided in this section, a person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been suspended or revoked may not have the license, endorsement, or privilege renewed or restored until the revocation or suspension period has been completed.

(b) Subject to 61-5-231 and except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section:

(i) upon receiving a report of a person's conviction or forfeiture of bail or collateral not vacated for a first offense of violating 61-8-1002, the department shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of the person for a period of 6 months;

(ii) upon receiving a report of a person's conviction or forfeiture of bail or collateral not vacated for a second offense of violating 61-8-1002 within the time period specified in 61-8-1011, the department shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of the person for a period of 1 year and may not issue a probationary license during the period of suspension unless the person completes at least 45 days of the 1-year suspension and the report of conviction includes a recommendation from the court that a probationary driver's license be issued subject to the requirements of 61-8-1010. Except as provided in subsection (5), if the 1-year suspension period passes and the person has not completed chemical dependency treatment, as required under 61-8-1009, the license suspension remains in effect until treatment is completed.

(iii) upon receiving a report of a person's conviction or forfeiture of bail or collateral not vacated for a third or subsequent offense of violating 61-8-1002 within the time period specified in 61-8-1011, the department shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of the person for a period of 1 year and may not issue a probationary license during the period of suspension unless the person completes at least 90 days of the 1-year suspension and the report of conviction includes a recommendation from the court that a probationary driver's license be issued subject to the requirements of 61-8-1010. Except as provided in subsection (5), if the 1-year suspension period passes and the person has not completed chemical dependency treatment, as required under 61-8-1002, the license suspension remains in effect until treatment is completed.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the period of suspension or revocation for a person convicted of any offense that makes mandatory the suspension or revocation of the person's driver's license commences from the date of conviction or forfeiture of bail.

(b) A suspension commences from the last day of the prior suspension or revocation period if the suspension is for a conviction of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

(4) If a person is convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002 while operating a commercial motor vehicle, the department shall suspend the person's driver's license as provided in 61-8-802.

(5) If a person has not completed the chemical dependency treatment required under 61-8-1009 before the end of the period of suspension or revocation required under this section, the department may restore or renew the person's driving privilege if:

(a) the person completed the chemical dependency assessment required under 61-8-1009; and

(b) the licensed addiction counselor conducting the assessment determined that treatment was not necessary.

(6) (a) A driver's license that is issued after a license revocation to a person described in subsection (6)(b) must be clearly marked with a notation that conveys the term of the person's probation restrictions.

(b) The provisions of subsection (6)(a) apply to a license issued to a person for whom a court has reported a felony conviction under 61-8-1008, the judgment for which has as a condition of probation that the person may not operate a motor vehicle unless:

(i) operation is authorized by the person's probation officer; or

(ii) a motor vehicle operated by the person is equipped with an ignition interlock device.

(7) (a) A person whose driver's license is suspended may be issued a provisional, restricted, or probationary license if the person completes a court-ordered driver rehabilitation or a court-ordered improvement program.

(b) This subsection (7) does not apply to a person whose commercial driver's license is suspended under Title 61, chapter 8, part 8.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 33, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 430, L. 1977; Sec. 31-149, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 29, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 1977; Sec. 31-145, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-145(d), 31-149; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 612, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 5, 15(8), Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 547, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 149, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 318, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 166, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 612, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 82, L. 2023, in (2)(b) inserted reference to subsection (5); in (2)(b)(ii) and (2)(b)(iii) at beginning of last sentence inserted exception clause; inserted (5) regarding not completing chemical dependency treatment; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective March 23, 2023.

Section 15, Ch. 166, L. 2023, in (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(b)(ii) in first sentence substituted "61-8-1011" for "61-8-1002"; and in (2)(b)(ii) in last sentence substituted "61-8-1009" for "61-8-1002". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 612, L. 2023, inserted (7) regarding provisional, restricted, or probationary licenses. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 3, Ch. 82, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to an individual who met the requirements of 61-5-208(5) on or after July 1, 2022."

Cross-References

Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.
Effect of conviction — civil disabilities, 46-18-801.
Who may not be licensed, 61-5-105.
Accidents involving death or personal injuries, 61-7-103.
Driving under influence of alcohol or drugs, Title 61, ch. 8, part 10.
Chemical dependency treatment, 61-8-1009.
Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses, 61-11-101.

61-5-209. Surrender and return of license upon suspension or revocation. When the department suspends or revokes a license, it shall require that the license be surrendered to and be retained by the department except that at the end of the period of suspension, the surrendered license must be returned to the licensee.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-150; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 195, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Surrender of license and registration, 61-6-112.
Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses, 61-11-101.

61-5-210. No operation under foreign license during suspension or revocation in this state. A resident or nonresident whose license or right or privilege to operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in this state has been suspended or revoked as provided in this chapter may not operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in this state under a license, permit, or registration certificate issued by any other jurisdiction or otherwise during the suspension or after the revocation until a new license is obtained under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-151; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 195, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.

61-5-211. Right of appeal to court. A person denied a driver's license or whose license has been canceled, suspended, or revoked by the department except when the cancellation or revocation is mandatory under the provisions of this chapter may file a petition within 30 days after the denial, cancellation, suspension, or revocation for a hearing in the matter in the district court in the county in which the person resides. The court has jurisdiction and it shall set the matter for hearing upon 30 days' written notice to the department, and shall take testimony and examine the facts of the case and determine whether the petitioner is entitled to a driver's license or is subject to suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the license under the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-152; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 195, L. 1993.

Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.
Review of administrative actions, 61-5-406.

61-5-212. Driving while license suspended or revoked — penalty — second offense of driving without licensing exemption. (1) (a) A person commits the offense of driving a motor vehicle without statutory exemption or during a suspension or revocation period if the person drives:

(i) a motor vehicle on any public highway of this state at a time when the person's privilege to drive or apply for and be issued a driver's license is suspended or revoked in this state or any other state unless the person has obtained a restricted-use driving permit under 61-5-232;

(ii) a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license is revoked, suspended, or cancelled in this state or any other state or the person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle or from obtaining a commercial driver's license; or

(iii) a motor vehicle on any public highway of this state without proof of a statutory exemption, as provided in 61-5-104.

(b) (i) A person convicted of the offense of driving a motor vehicle without proof of a statutory exemption for the second time shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 6 months and may be fined not more than $500.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(iii), a person convicted of the offense of driving during a suspension or revocation period shall be fined an amount not to exceed $500 or be imprisoned for a term of not more than 6 months, or both.

(iii) If the reason for the suspension or revocation was that the person was convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), or (1)(e)or a similar offense under the laws of any other state or the suspension was under 61-8-1016 or a similar law of any other state for refusal to take a test for alcohol or drugs requested by a peace officer who believed that the person might be driving under the influence, the person shall be imprisoned for a term of not less than 2 days or more than 6 months or be fined an amount not to exceed $2,000, or both, and in addition, the court may order the person to perform up to 40 hours of community service.

(2) (a) Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a noncommercial vehicle while the person's driver's license, privilege to drive, or privilege to apply for and be issued a driver's license was suspended or revoked, the department shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for an additional 1-year period.

(b) Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license was revoked, suspended, or cancelled or the person was disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle under federal regulations, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license in accordance with 61-8-802.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 31-155; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 583, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 83, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 462, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Habitual traffic offender operating motor vehicle guilty of misdemeanor, 61-11-213.

61-5-213. Conviction defined. For the purposes of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter, part 8 of chapter 8, chapter 11, and as it relates to any state or local law regulating the operation of a motor vehicle on highways or mandating the revocation or suspension of a driver's license or driving privilege, the term "conviction" means:

(1) a plea of guilty or nolo contendere accepted by the court;

(2) an adjudication of guilt that has not been vacated by the appropriate court;

(3) a determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the law in a court of original jurisdiction or by an authorized administrative tribunal;

(4) a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person's appearance in court that has not been vacated;

(5) the payment of a fine or court cost, regardless of whether it is suspended or rebated; or

(6) the violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether the condition is imposed as part of probation.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-145(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Conditions of bail — violation of conditions, Title 46, ch. 9, part 5.
Sentence and judgment, Title 46, ch. 18.
Execution of judgment, Title 46, ch. 19.

61-5-214. Mandatory suspension for failure to appear or comply with criminal sentence — administrative fee — notice. (1) The department shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of a person upon receipt of a report from the court, certified under penalty of law and in a form prescribed by the department, that the person:

(a) failed to appear upon an issued complaint, summons, or court order after being charged with a misdemeanor violation under Title 45 or Title 61, chapters 3 through 10, or after posting a driver's license in lieu of bail as provided in 46-9-401(1)(e); or

(b) failed to comply with a sentence imposed pursuant to 46-18-201.

(2) The suspension continues in effect until the court notifies the department that:

(a) the person has either appeared in court or complied with the sentence imposed pursuant to 46-18-201; and

(b) the person has paid the court an administrative fee of $25 if the court was holding the offender's driver's license in lieu of bail under 44-1-1102, 46-9-302, or 46-9-401.

(3) (a) Before a report is submitted under this section, a person must be given written notice that the failure to appear on a criminal charge or comply with a criminal sentence may result in the suspension of the person's driver's license or driving privilege. Initial notice of the possibility of a license suspension must either be included on the summons or complaint and notice to appear form given to the person when charges are initially filed or be contained in a court order, either hand-delivered to the person while in court or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, to the most current address for that person received by or on record with the court.

(b) The initial notice must be followed by a written warning from the court, sent by first-class mail, advising the person that a license suspension is imminent unless, by a specified date, the failure to appear or comply is remedied or the person appears before the court to contest the impending license suspension.

(4) The court shall deposit any administrative fee received under subsection (2)(b) in the appropriate county or city general fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 437, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 465, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2019.

61-5-215. Provisional licenses prohibited. A provisional, restricted, or probationary license may not be issued upon a suspension under 61-5-214.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 133, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 465, L. 2003.

61-5-216. Reinstatement of license. Upon receipt of notification from the court that the operator has appeared or posted the bond and has paid the administrative fee required under 61-5-214 and if the reinstatement fee required under 61-2-107 or 61-5-218 has been paid, the department shall reinstate the license unless the operator otherwise is not entitled to reinstatement.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 442, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 133, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 7, 8, Ch. 465, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 2019.

61-5-217. Suspending privileges of persons under 18 years of age. The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a person under the age of 18 is subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like causes as an adult.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 484, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Confiscation of youth's driver's license — consent adjustment, 41-5-1304.

Confiscation of youth's driver's license — youth in need of intervention or youth who violates consent adjustment, 41-5-1512.

61-5-218. License reinstatement fee following license suspension or revocation. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person whose driver's license, other than a commercial driver's license, or driving privilege has been suspended or revoked shall pay a reinstatement fee of $100 to the department to have the driver's license or driving privilege reinstated.

(2) (a) A person whose driver's license or driving privilege was suspended or revoked under 61-8-1016 shall pay a reinstatement fee as required by 61-2-107.

(b) A driver's license or driving privilege that was suspended or revoked under 61-5-207 must be reinstated without payment of a reinstatement fee.

(c) The reinstatement fee required under subsection (1) must be waived by the department when a court notifies the department that the person has satisfied the requirements of 61-5-214(2) and the court has determined that the person is indigent under the standards set forth in 47-1-111.

(3) The department shall deposit the fees collected under subsection (1) in the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 360, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-5-219. Discount on license reinstatement fee — completion of driver rehabilitation program. (1) A person who submits a certificate of completion from a department-approved driver rehabilitation program must receive a 50% reduction on the license reinstatement fee due under 61-2-107 or 61-5-218.

(2) For purposes of this section, a driver rehabilitation program may be approved by the department if the program provider annually certifies to the department that the provider's program:

(a) provides a participant with a minimum of 4 hours of instruction on Montana driving laws, the importance of positive driving attitudes and habits, defensive driving techniques, and the responsible use of drugs and alcohol;

(b) includes preinstruction and postinstruction testing of each participant;

(c) provides a certificate of completion to each person who successfully completes the program; and

(d) reports to the department, in a timely manner, the name, date of birth, and driver's license number of each person to whom the provider has issued a certificate of completion.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 556, L. 2003.

61-5-220. Renumbered 61-5-146. Sec. 12, Ch. 296, L. 2011.

61-5-221. Renumbered 61-5-147. Sec. 12, Ch. 296, L. 2011.

61-5-222 through 61-5-230 reserved.

61-5-231. Authorization of probationary license by DUI court. (1) If a person convicted of a second or subsequent misdemeanor offense of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs under 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), or (1)(e), driving with excessive alcohol concentration under 61-8-1002, or aggravated driving under the influence as defined in 61-8-1001 is participating in a DUI court as defined in 61-8-1001, the court may, in the court's discretion, authorize a probationary driver's license for the participant subject to 61-8-1010 and any other conditions imposed within the scope of the court's authority.

(2) If the participant fails to comply with the court's conditions, the court may revoke the probationary driver's license and impose a driver's license suspension for the time period established pursuant to 61-5-208 commencing from the date of the court's revocation of the probationary license.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-5-232. Restricted-use driving permit — conditions — definitions. (1) A person who, pursuant to 61-5-105(2), may not be issued a driver's license due to an ineligible status reported by another state to the national driver register may petition the district court of the county in which the person resides for a restricted-use driving permit for use only within the state of Montana if:

(a) the person has maintained continuous residence in Montana for at least 5 years and is not otherwise ineligible for a license under 61-5-105;

(b) the person submits a certified driving record from the licensing agency of each state that has reported the person's status as ineligible to the national driver register that shows that at least 5 years have elapsed from the effective date of the most recent withdrawal of the person's driver's license or driving privileges by the other state or states;

(c) for the 5-year period immediately preceding application for a restricted-use driving permit, the person has not been convicted in any jurisdiction of a felony or misdemeanor offense;

(d) the person certifies that no traffic citations or alcohol-related or drug-related criminal charges are currently pending against the person;

(e) the person certifies that a good faith effort was made to resolve the person's ineligible status through the licensing agency of each state or states that reported the person's status as ineligible to the national driver register, including the payment of any pending fees or fines; and

(f) the person provides any other information required by department rule.

(2) The department may issue a restricted-use driving permit only to a person who satisfies all of the requirements of this section as determined by a district court pursuant to subsection (1). A person who is issued a restricted-use driving permit may use it only for an essential driving purpose as defined by the department.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Most recent withdrawal" means the suspension, revocation, or denial of a driver's license or driving privilege underlying a current ineligible status report made by another state's licensing agency to the national driver register.

(b) "National driver register" means the registry established under 49 U.S.C. 30302.

(c) "Restricted-use driving permit" means a paper document authorizing a person to drive within this state for essential driving purposes only and that is issued by the department to a person whose status on the national driver register is reported as ineligible to operate a motor vehicle other than a commercial motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Part 3
Miscellaneous Provisions

Part Cross-References

Special parking permits for the handicapped, Title 49, ch. 4, part 3.

61-5-301. Indication on driver's license or identification card of intent to make anatomical gift or of living will declaration. (1) An application furnished by the department for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license under this chapter or for the issuance of an identification card under Title 61, chapter 12, part 5, must include spaces for indicating when the licensee has:

(a) executed a document under 72-17-201 of intent to make a gift of all or part of the driver's body under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act; or

(b) executed a declaration under 50-9-103 relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment.

(2) The department shall provide each applicant, when applying for or renewing a driver's license or when applying for an identification card, printed information calling the applicant's attention to the provisions of this section. Each applicant must be asked orally if the applicant wishes to make an anatomical gift and if the applicant has executed the declaration under 50-9-103 relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment.

(3) Each applicant must be given an opportunity to indicate in the spaces provided under subsection (1) the applicant's intent to make an anatomical gift or that the applicant has executed the declaration under 50-9-103 relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment.

(4) The department shall issue to each applicant who indicates an intent to make an anatomical gift a statement that, when signed by the licensee in the manner prescribed in 72-17-201, constitutes a document of anatomical gift. If an applicant signs a statement under this subsection, a symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift must be imprinted on the face of the donor's driver's license or identification card.

(5) The department shall electronically transfer the information of all persons who volunteer, upon application for a driver's license or an identification card, to donate organs or tissue to the organ and tissue donation registry created in 72-17-105 and 72-17-106 and any subsequent changes to the applicant's donor status.

History: **En. 31-135.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-135.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 459, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 230, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 194, L. 2013.**

61-5-302. Unlawful use of license or identification card. It is a misdemeanor for a person to:

(1) display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the person's possession a canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious, or altered driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card;

(2) lend the person's driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card to any other person or knowingly permit its use by another;

(3) display or represent as one's own any driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card not issued to the person;

(4) fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand a driver's license or identification card that has been suspended, revoked, or canceled;

(5) use a false or fictitious name in an application for a driver's license or identification card or knowingly make a false statement or knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in an application; or

(6) permit any unlawful use of a driver's license, identification card, or tribal identification card issued to the person.

History: **En. Sec. 37, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 31-153; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 180, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404.
What constitutes actual fraud — constructive fraud, 28-2-405, 28-2-406.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-5-303. Making false affidavit — penalty. Any person who makes any false affidavit or knowingly swears or affirms falsely to any matter or thing required by the terms of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter to be sworn to or affirmed is guilty of false swearing and upon conviction shall be punishable as provided by 45-7-202.

History: **En. Sec. 38, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-154; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 421, L. 1979.**

61-5-304. Permitting unauthorized minor to drive. A person may not cause or knowingly permit the person's child or ward under 18 years of age to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway when the minor is not authorized to drive or in violation of any of the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-156; amd. Sec. 1945, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Minor defined, 41-1-101.
Application of minor, 61-5-108.

61-5-305. Employing driver without license. No person shall employ as a commercial vehicle operator any person not then licensed as provided by this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 41, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-157; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 443, L. 1987.**

61-5-306. Renting motor vehicle to another. (1) A person may not rent a motor vehicle to any other person unless the latter person is licensed under this chapter or, in the case of a nonresident, licensed under the laws of the state or country of the person's residence except a nonresident whose home state or country does not require that an operator be licensed.

(2) A person may not rent a motor vehicle to another until the person has inspected the driver's license of the proposed renter and compared and verified the signature on the license with the signature of the proposed renter written in the person's presence.

(3) A person may not rent a commercial motor vehicle to another until the person has inspected the driver's license of the proposed renter and determined that the proposed renter has a commercial driver's license.

(4) Every person renting a motor vehicle to another shall keep a record of the registration number of the motor vehicle rented, the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle is rented, and the number and expiration date of the license of the renter. The record is open to inspection by any police officer or officer or employee of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 42, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-158; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 195, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Failure to return rented or leased personal property, 45-6-309.

61-5-307. Penalty for misdemeanor. (1) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and 61-11-101 unless such violation is by this chapter or other law of this state declared to be a felony.

(2) Unless another penalty is in this chapter or by the laws of this state provided, every person convicted of a misdemeanor for the violation of any provision of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and 61-11-101 shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: **En. Sec. 43, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-159.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-5-308. Uniformity of interpretation. Parts 1 through 3 of this chapter and 61-11-101 and 61-11-102 shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate their general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact them.

History: **En. Sec. 44, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-160.**

61-5-309. Unlawful issuance of license or identification card. No person may create, publish, or otherwise manufacture a Montana driver's license or a Montana identification card authorized by 61-12-501 or color facsimile thereof or create, manufacture, or possess an engraved plate or other such device for the printing of a Montana driver's license or Montana identification card authorized by 61-12-501 or color facsimile thereof, except as authorized by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

Cross-References

Penalty, 61-5-307.

61-5-310. Displaying electronic driver's license. Displaying an electronic driver's license on an electronic device or handing an electronic device displaying an electronic driver's license to a peace officer does not constitute consent to a search or seizure of the electronic device.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 4
Driver License Compact

61-5-401. Driver License Compact. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Driver License Compact".

Article I. Findings and Declaration of Policy

(1) The party states find that:

(a) the safety of their streets and highways is materially affected by the degree of compliance with state laws and local ordinances relating to the operation of motor vehicles;

(b) violation of such a law or ordinance is evidence that the violator engages in conduct which is likely to endanger the safety of persons and property;

(c) the continuance in force of a license to drive is predicated upon compliance with laws and ordinances relating to the operation of motor vehicles in whichever jurisdiction the vehicle is operated.

(2) It is the policy of each of the party states to:

(a) promote compliance with the laws, ordinances, and administrative rules relating to the operation of motor vehicles by their operators in each of the jurisdictions where such operators drive motor vehicles;

(b) make the reciprocal recognition of licenses to drive and eligibility therefor more just and equitable by considering the overall compliance with motor vehicle laws, ordinances, and administrative rules as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license by reason of which the licensee is authorized or permitted to operate a motor vehicle in any of the party states.

Article II. Definitions

As used in this compact:

(1) "state" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(2) "home state" means the state which has issued and has the power to suspend or revoke the use of the license or permit to operate a motor vehicle;

(3) "conviction" means a conviction of any offense related to the use or operation of a motor vehicle which is prohibited by state law, municipal ordinance, or administrative rule, or a forfeiture of bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any such offense, and which conviction or forfeiture is required to be reported to the licensing authority.

Article III. Reports of Conviction

The licensing authority of a party state shall report each conviction of a person from another party state occurring within its jurisdiction to the licensing authority of the home state of the licensee. Such report shall clearly identify the person convicted; describe the violation specifying the section of the statute, code, or ordinance violated; identify the court in which action was taken; indicate whether a plea of guilty or not guilty was entered or the conviction was a result of the forfeiture of bail, bond, or other security; and include any special findings made in connection therewith.

Article IV. Effect of Conviction

(1) The licensing authority in the home state, for the purposes of suspension, revocation, or limitation of the license to operate a motor vehicle, shall give the same effect to the conduct reported, pursuant to Article III of this compact, as it would if such conduct had occurred in the home state, in the case of convictions for:

(a) manslaughter or negligent homicide resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;

(b) driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a narcotic drug, or under the influence of any other drug to a degree which renders the driver incapable of safely driving a motor vehicle;

(c) any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;
(d) failure to stop and render aid in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another.

(2) As to other convictions, reported pursuant to Article III, the licensing authority in the home state shall give such effect to the conduct as is provided by the laws of the home state.

(3) If the laws of a party state do not provide for offenses or violations denominated or described in precisely the words employed in subdivision (1) of this article, such party state shall construe the denominations and descriptions appearing in subdivision (1) hereof as being applicable to and identifying those offenses or violations of a substantially similar nature, and the laws of such party state shall contain such provisions as may be necessary to ensure that full force and effect is given to this article.

Article V. Applications for New Licenses

Upon application for a license to drive, the licensing authority in a party state shall ascertain whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of a license to drive issued by any other party state. The licensing authority in the state where application is made shall not issue a license to drive to the applicant if:

(1) the applicant has held such a license, but the same has been suspended by reason, in whole or in part, of a violation and if such suspension period has not terminated;

(2) the applicant has held such a license, but the same has been revoked by reason, in whole or in part, of a violation and if such revocation has not terminated, except that after the expiration of 1 year from the date the license was revoked, such person may make application for a new license if permitted by law. The licensing authority may refuse to issue a license to any such applicant if, after investigation, the licensing authority determines that it will not be safe to grant to such person the privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the public highways.

(3) the applicant is the holder of a license to drive issued by another party state and currently in force unless the applicant surrenders such license.

Article VI. Applicability of Other Laws

Except as expressly required by provisions of this compact, nothing contained herein shall be construed to affect the right of any party state to apply any of its other laws relating to licenses to drive to any person or circumstance or to invalidate or prevent any driver license agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty state.

Article VII. Compact Administrator and Interchange of Information

(1) The head of the licensing authority of each party state shall be the administrator of this compact for the administrator's state. The administrators, acting jointly, shall have the power to formulate all necessary and proper procedures for the exchange of information under this compact.

(2) The administrator of each party state shall furnish to the administrator of each other party state any information or documents reasonably necessary to facilitate the administration of this compact.

Article VIII. Entry Into Force and Withdrawal

(1) This compact shall enter into force and become effective as to any state when it has enacted the same into law.

(2) Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until 6 months after the executive head of the withdrawing state has given notice of the withdrawal to the executive heads of all other party states. No withdrawal shall affect the validity or applicability by the licensing authorities of states remaining party to the compact of any report of conviction occurring prior to the withdrawal.

Article IX. Construction and Severability

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United

States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state party thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-163; amd. Sec. 1946, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Communication with other states — Governor sole official organ, 2-15-201.
Application for license — previous licensee, 61-5-107.
Suspending privileges of nonresidents, 61-5-203.
Suspending resident's license upon conviction in another state, 61-5-204.
Authority of Department of Justice to suspend license, 61-5-206.
No operation under foreign license during suspension or revocation in this state, 61-5-210.

61-5-402. Department as licensing authority — information and documents to be furnished. As used in the compact, the term "licensing authority" with reference to this state shall mean the department of justice. The department shall furnish to the appropriate authorities of any other party state any information or documents reasonably necessary to facilitate the administration of Articles III, IV, and V of the compact.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-164; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

61-5-403. Reimbursement of compact administrator. The compact administrator provided for in Article VII of the compact is not entitled to any additional compensation on account of the service as administrator but is entitled to expenses incurred in connection with duties and responsibilities as administrator in the same manner as for expenses incurred in connection with any other duties or responsibilities of the administrator's office or employment.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-165; amd. Sec. 1947, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Travel, meals, and lodging, Title 2, ch. 18, part 5.

61-5-404. Governor as executive head. As used in the compact, with reference to this state, the term "executive head" shall mean the governor.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-166.**

61-5-405. Offenses furnishing ground for suspension or revocation of license — return to licensing jurisdiction of abstracts of court records and reports of conviction. (1) Items enumerated in Article IV(1), subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d), of 61-5-401 refer specifically to 45-5-103, 45-5-104, 61-8-1002, the definition of felony as provided in 45-2-101, and 61-7-105, respectively.

(2) In addition to convictions mentioned in subsection (1), the department, for the purpose of suspension, revocation, or limitation of the license to operate a motor vehicle, shall give the same effect to the conduct reported as it would if the conduct had occurred in this state for:

(a) convictions of perjury or the making of a false affidavit relating to the ownership or operation of a motor vehicle (61-5-303);

(b) three convictions of reckless driving committed within a period of 12 months (61-8-301); or

(c) convictions of careless driving resulting in death or reckless driving resulting in death.

(3) Court abstracts or reports of conviction received by the department that name an individual licensed in another jurisdiction must be forwarded to the jurisdiction of licensure. The department may not take action against the driver's license or driving privilege of the individual as may be required elsewhere in this title.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-168; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 485, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 419, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 354, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Perjury and other falsification in official matters, Title 45, ch. 7, part 2.

61-5-406. Review of administrative actions. Any act or omission of any official or employee of this state done or omitted pursuant to, or in enforcing, the provisions of the Driver License Compact shall be subject to review pursuant to the provisions of 61-5-211, but any review of the validity of any conviction reported pursuant to the compact shall be limited to establishing the identity of the person so convicted.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 154, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 31-169.**

CHAPTER 6
RESPONSIBILITY OF VEHICLE USERS AND OWNERS

Part 1 — Motor Vehicle Insurance Responsibility and Verification

61-6-101. Short title.
61-6-102. Definitions.
61-6-103. Motor vehicle liability policy minimum limits — other requirements.
61-6-104. Uniformity of interpretation.
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61-6-124. Satisfaction of judgments.
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61-6-131. When proof of financial responsibility required.
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61-6-135. Notice of cancellation or termination of certified policy.
61-6-136. Other policies not affected.
61-6-137. Bond as proof of responsibility.
61-6-138. Money or securities as proof of responsibility.
61-6-139. Owner permitted to give proof for others.
61-6-140. Substitution of proof of responsibility.
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61-6-142. Duration of proof — when money or securities may be canceled or returned.
61-6-143. Self-insurers.
61-6-144. Assigned risk plans.
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61-6-151. Violations — penalties.
61-6-152 through 61-6-156 reserved.
61-6-157. Creation of online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system.
61-6-158. Vehicle insurance verification and license plate operating account.

Part 2 — Liability of Vehicle Owner — Contract Indemnification Limitations

61-6-201. Liability of owner for negligence of employee driver.
61-6-202. Motor carrier transportation contract indemnification — limitation.

Part 3 — Mandatory Liability Protection

61-6-301. Required motor vehicle insurance — family member exclusion.
61-6-302. Proof of compliance.
61-6-303. Exempt vehicles.
61-6-304. Penalties.
61-6-305 through 61-6-308 reserved.
61-6-309. Law enforcement use of verification system.

Chapter Cross-References

Replacement value of motor vehicle, 27-1-306.

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

Part 1
Motor Vehicle Insurance Responsibility and Verification

Part Cross-References

Attorney fees — motor vehicle claim, 25-10-303.

61-6-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Motor Vehicle Insurance Responsibility and Verification Act".

History: **En. Sec. 41, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-457; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 413, L. 2009.**

61-6-102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commercial automobile insurance coverage" means any coverage provided to an insured, regardless of number of vehicles or entities covered, under a commercial, garage, or truckers coverage form and rated from a commercial manual or rating rule. Vehicle type and ownership are not the primary factors in underwriting the coverage or rating the coverage. The rating may be subject to individual risk characteristics, including but not limited to experience rating, schedule rating, loss rating, or deductible rating.

(2) "Insurer" means an authorized insurer, as defined in 33-1-201, who issues or renews a motor vehicle liability policy.

(3) "Judgment" means any judgment that has become final by expiration without appeal of the time within which an appeal might have been perfected or by final affirmation on appeal rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction of any state or of the United States upon a cause of action arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of any motor vehicle, for damages, including damages for care and loss of services, because of bodily injury to or death of any person or for damages because of injury to or destruction of property, including the loss of use of property, or upon a cause of action on an agreement of settlement for damages.

(4) "License" means a driver's license as defined in 61-1-101.

(5) "Low-volume insurer" means an insurer that provides motor vehicle liability policies for fewer than 500 vehicles in this state.

(6) (a) "Motor vehicle liability policy" means a policy of insurance issued or renewed by an insurer to a person who owns or operates a motor vehicle that meets or exceeds the minimum coverage limits under 61-6-103, including a policy certified as provided in 61-6-133 as proof of financial responsibility.

(b) A certificate filed for a nonresident as proof of financial responsibility under 61-6-134 must be treated as a motor vehicle liability policy under this part.

(7) "Nonresident's operating privilege" means the privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of this state pertaining to the operation by the nonresident of a motor vehicle or the use of a motor vehicle owned by the nonresident in this state.

(8) "Person" means every natural person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation.

(9) "Proof of financial responsibility" means proof of ability to respond in damages for liability on account of accidents occurring subsequent to the effective date of the proof of financial responsibility, arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle.

(10) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any province of the Dominion of Canada.

(11) "Suspension" means the withdrawal, by action of the department, of a motor vehicle's registration, as defined in 61-1-101, for a period of time prescribed by department rule.

(12) "System" means the online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system created in 61-6-157.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-418(part); amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 413, L. 2009.**

61-6-103. Motor vehicle liability policy minimum limits — other requirements. (1) A motor vehicle liability policy must:

(a) designate by explicit description or by appropriate reference all motor vehicles with respect to the coverage to be granted; and

(b) insure the person named in the policy and any other person, as insured, using any motor vehicle or motor vehicles with the express or implied permission of the named insured, against loss from the liability imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of the motor vehicle or motor vehicles within the United States of America or Canada, subject to limits exclusive of interest and costs, with respect to each motor vehicle, as follows:

(i) $25,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident and subject to the limit for one person;

(ii) $50,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident; and

(iii) $20,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident.

(2) An operator's policy of liability insurance must insure the person named as insured in the policy against loss from the liability imposed upon the operator by law for damages arising out of the use by the operator of any motor vehicle not owned by the operator, within the same territorial limits and subject to the same limits of liability that are set forth in subsection (1) with respect to the operator's policy of liability insurance.

(3) A motor vehicle liability policy must state the name and address of the named insured, the coverage afforded by the policy, the premium charged for the policy, the policy period, and the limits of liability and contain an agreement or be endorsed that insurance is provided under the policy in accordance with the coverage defined in this part with respect to bodily injury and death or property damage, or both, and is subject to all the provisions of this part.

(4) A motor vehicle liability policy need not insure any liability under any workers' compensation law or any liability on account of bodily injury to or death of an employee of the insured while engaged in the employment, other than domestic, of the insured or while engaged in the operation, maintenance, or repair of a motor vehicle or any liability for damage to property owned by, rented to, in charge of, or transported by the insured.

(5) A motor vehicle liability policy is subject to the following provisions, which need not be contained in the policy:

(a) The liability of the insurance carrier with respect to the insurance required by this part becomes absolute whenever injury or damage covered by the motor vehicle liability policy occurs. The policy may not be canceled or annulled as to the liability by any agreement between the insurance carrier and the insured after the occurrence of the injury or damage. A statement made by the insured or on behalf of the insured and a violation of the policy may not defeat or void the policy.

(b) The satisfaction by the insured of a judgment for the injury or damage may not be a condition precedent to the right or duty of the insurance carrier to make payment on account of the injury or damage.

(c) The insurance carrier has the right to settle any claim covered by the policy, and if the settlement is made in good faith, the amount is deductible from the limits of liability specified in subsection (1)(b).

(d) The policy, the written application for the policy, if any, and any rider or endorsement that does not conflict with the provisions of this part constitute the entire contract between the parties.

(6) A motor vehicle policy is not subject to cancellation, termination, nonrenewal, or premium increase due to injury or damage incurred by the insured or operator unless the insured or operator is found to have violated a traffic law or ordinance of the state or a city, is found negligent or contributorily negligent in a court of law or by the arbitration proceedings contained in chapter 5 of Title 27, or pays damages to another party, whether by settlement or otherwise. A premium may not be increased during the term of the policy unless there is a change in exposure.

(7) Any policy that grants the coverage required for a motor vehicle liability policy may also grant any lawful coverage in excess of or in addition to the coverage specified for a motor vehicle liability policy, and the excess or additional coverage is not subject to the provisions of this part. With respect to a policy that grants the excess or additional coverage, the term "motor vehicle liability policy" applies only to that part of the coverage required by this section.

(8) A motor vehicle liability policy may provide that the insured shall reimburse the insurance carrier for any payment the insurance carrier would not have been obligated to make under the terms of the policy except for the provisions of this part.

(9) A motor vehicle liability policy may provide for the prorating of the insurance under the policy with other valid and collectible insurance.

(10) The requirements for a motor vehicle liability policy may be fulfilled by the policies of one or more insurance carriers, which policies together meet the requirements.

(11) Any binder issued pending the issuance of a motor vehicle liability policy fulfills the requirements for the policy.

(12) A reduced limits endorsement may not be issued by a company to be attached to a policy issued in compliance with this section.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 30, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 53-438; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1948, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

Required motor vehicle insurance, 61-6-301.

61-6-104. Uniformity of interpretation. This part shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the laws of those states which enact it.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-456.

61-6-105. Department to administer law and make rules. (1) The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this part and may make rules necessary for the administration of the system.

(2) The rules must:

(a) establish standards and procedures for accessing the system by authorized personnel of the department, the courts, law enforcement personnel, and any other entities authorized by the department that are consistent with specifications and standards of the insurance industry committee on motor vehicle administration and other applicable industry standards;

(b) determine a schedule for the implementation of the system, subject to the testing requirements in 61-6-157;

(c) provide for the suspension of a vehicle's registration when:

(i) a person fails to respond to a written inquiry from the department or its designee concerning the insurance status of a vehicle;

(ii) a person misrepresents or provides false information to the department or its designee regarding the operational status or use of a vehicle for which liability insurance is mandatory;

(iii) the department has reason to believe that a vehicle owner is not complying with the mandatory liability insurance requirements of 61-6-301; or

(iv) the department receives a report from a court that a person has been convicted of a violation of 61-6-301 or 61-6-302 and the surrender of the vehicle registration receipt and license plates under 61-6-304 has been ordered;

(d) prohibit the reinstatement of a vehicle's registration and the new registration of a vehicle unless the applicable reinstatement fees have been paid;

(e) set a fee for the reinstatement of a vehicle's registration following a suspension imposed by the department. The fee may not exceed $100 and is in addition to any other fine or penalty prescribed by the law.

(f) provide for periodic insurance data file transfers from insurers under specifications and standards set forth in 61-6-157 to identify vehicles that are not covered by an insurance policy and to monitor ongoing compliance with mandatory vehicle liability insurance requirements;

(g) provide for random checks to identify vehicles that are not covered by an insurance policy or specific checks to determine whether a vehicle that has previously been shown as uninsured is now insured; and

(h) provide for a hearing for a person aggrieved by a suspension order issued by the department under the provisions of this part.

(3) The department may adopt additional rules to:

(a) assist authorized users in interpreting responses received from the system and determining the appropriate action to be taken as a result of a response; and

(b) otherwise clarify system operations and business rules.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 53-419(a), (b); amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 142, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-6-106. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 53-419(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-6-107. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 467, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 53-420; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-6-108. Matters not to be evidence in civil suits. Neither the action taken by the department pursuant to this part nor the findings, if any, of the department upon which such action is based shall be referred to in any way or be any evidence of the negligence or due care of either party at the trial of any action at law to recover damages.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-428; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Evidence, Title 26.
Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.
Comparative negligence, 27-1-702.

61-6-109. Exceptions. This part shall not apply with respect to any motor vehicle owned by the United States, this state, or any political subdivision of this state or any municipality therein; or, except for 61-6-139, with respect to any motor vehicle which is subject to the provisions of 69-12-402, requiring insurance or other security.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-450.

Cross-References

Public-owned vehicles exempt from license or registration fees, 61-3-321.
Standard license plates — publicly owned vehicles, 61-3-332.

61-6-110. Other relief not precluded. Nothing in this part shall be construed as preventing the plaintiff in any action at law from relying for relief upon the other processes provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-455.

Cross-References

Civil trials, Title 25, ch. 7.

61-6-111. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 218, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-447.

61-6-112. Surrender of license. A person whose license has been suspended, whose policy of insurance or bond, when required under this part, has been canceled or terminated, or who neglects to furnish other proof upon request of the department shall immediately return the person's license to the department. If a licensee fails to return to the department the license as required by this section, then a peace officer may seize the license during an investigative stop or arrest and return the license to the department.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 53-448; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 309, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance — limitations on basis for cancellation, 33-23-211.
Notice required for cancellation — exception — penalty, 33-23-212.
Notice to insured of ground for cancellation, 33-23-213.
Surrender and return of license, 61-5-209.
Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses, 61-11-101.

61-6-113 through 61-6-120 reserved.

61-6-121. Courts to report nonpayment of judgments. (1) Whenever a person fails within 60 days to satisfy a judgment, upon the written request of the judgment creditor or the creditor's attorney, the clerk of the court, or of the judge of a court that does not have a clerk, in which any judgment is rendered within this state shall forward to the department immediately after the expiration of the 60 days a certified copy of the judgment.

(2) If the defendant named in any certified copy of a judgment reported to the department is a nonresident, the department shall transmit a certified copy of the judgment to the official in charge of the issuance of licenses and registration certificates of the state of which the defendant is a resident.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-429; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1949, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Clerk of District Court — general duties, 3-5-501.
Judgment and subsequent procedure, Title 27, ch. 18, part 9.

61-6-122. Suspension for nonpayment of judgments — exceptions. (1) The department, upon the receipt of a certified copy of a judgment, shall suspend the license and any nonresident's operating privilege of any person against whom a judgment was rendered, except as provided in this section and in 61-6-125.

(2) If the judgment creditor consents in writing, in a form that the department prescribes, that the judgment debtor be allowed a license or a nonresident's operating privilege, the department may, in its discretion, allow the debtor a license or nonresident's operating privilege from the date of consent. The debtor's license or nonresident's operating privilege continues until the judgment creditor's consent is revoked in writing notwithstanding default in the payment of the judgment, or of any installments prescribed in 61-6-125, provided the judgment debtor furnishes proof of compliance with 61-6-301.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-430; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 309, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Judgment and subsequent procedure, Title 27, ch. 18, part 9.
Debtor and creditor relationships, Title 31, ch. 2.

61-6-123. Suspension to continue until judgments paid and proof given — maximum period of suspension. A license or nonresident's operating privilege remains suspended and may not be renewed, nor may a license be issued in the name of a judgment debtor, including a judgment debtor not previously licensed, until each judgment is stayed, satisfied in full, or satisfied to the extent provided in this part and until the person gives proof of compliance with 61-6-301 subject to the exemptions provided in 61-6-122 and 61-6-125 or 6 years have passed from date judgment was first entered and the person has complied with 61-6-301 and 61-6-302.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 53-431; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 515, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Period of suspension or revocation, 61-5-208.

61-6-124. Satisfaction of judgments. (1) Judgments herein referred to shall, for the purposes of this part only, be considered satisfied:

(a) when $25,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of one person as the result of any one accident;

(b) when, subject to the limit of $25,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person, the sum of $50,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons as the result of any one accident; or

(c) when $5,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of injury to or destruction of property of others as a result of any one accident.

(2) Payments made in settlement of any claims because of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising from a motor vehicle accident shall be credited in reduction of the amounts provided for in this section.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-432; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Execution of judgment, Title 25, ch. 13.
Proceedings in aid of execution, Title 25, ch. 14.
Confession of judgment, Title 27, ch. 9, part 1.
Prejudgment attachment, Title 27, ch. 18.

61-6-125. Installment payment of judgments — default. (1) A judgment debtor upon due notice to the judgment creditor may apply to the court in which the judgment was rendered for the privilege of paying the judgment in installments. The court, in its discretion and without prejudice to any other legal remedies that the judgment creditor may have, may order payment in installments and fix the amounts and times of the payments.

(2) The department may not suspend a license or a nonresident's operating privilege and shall restore any license or nonresident's operating privilege suspended following nonpayment of a judgment, when the judgment debtor gives proof of compliance with 61-6-301 and obtains an order permitting the payment of the judgment in installments, and while the payment of any installment is not in default.

(3) If the judgment debtor fails to pay any installment as specified by a court order, then the department shall, upon notice of the default, suspend the license or nonresident's operating privilege of the judgment debtor until the judgment is satisfied, as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-433; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 309, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Judgments for money, 25-13-201.
Enforcement of order to pay money, 25-13-204.

61-6-126 through 61-6-130 reserved.

61-6-131. When proof of financial responsibility required. (1) Whenever the department under any of the laws of this state revokes the license or privilege to drive of any person, the license must remain revoked and may not be restored until the person is otherwise eligible and files a certificate of insurance as provided in 61-6-133 or 61-6-134.

(2) The department may not issue a probationary license to a person whose driver's license or privilege to drive is revoked unless the department receives proof of financial responsibility by a certificate of insurance as provided in 61-6-133 or 61-6-134 and the person is otherwise eligible for a probationary license.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 53-434; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1950, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Conditions of bail — violation of conditions, Title 46, ch. 9, part 5.
Effect of conviction, Title 46, ch. 18, part 8.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.

61-6-132. Alternate methods of giving proof. (1) Proof of financial responsibility when required under this part with respect to a motor vehicle or with respect to a person who is not the owner of a motor vehicle may be given by filing:

(a) a certificate of insurance as provided in 61-6-133 or 61-6-134;
(b) a bond as provided in 61-6-137;
(c) a certificate or deposit of money or securities as provided in 61-6-138; or
(d) a certificate of self-insurance, as provided in 61-6-143, supplemented by an agreement by the self-insurer that, with respect to accidents occurring while the certificate is in force, the self-insurer will pay the same judgments and in the same amounts that an insurer would have been obligated to pay under an owner's motor vehicle liability policy if it had issued a policy to the self-insurer.

(2) A motor vehicle may not be or continue to be registered in the name of any person required to file proof of financial responsibility unless the proof is furnished for the motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-435; amd. Sec. 1951, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Money, 30-3-107.
Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

61-6-133. Certificate of insurance as proof. Proof of financial responsibility may be furnished by filing with the department the written certificate of any insurance carrier duly authorized to do business in this state certifying that there is in effect a motor vehicle liability policy for the benefit of the person required to furnish proof of financial responsibility. Such certificate shall give the effective date of such motor vehicle liability policy, which date shall be the same as the effective date of the certificate, and shall designate by explicit description or by appropriate reference all motor vehicles covered thereby, unless the policy is issued to a person who is not the owner of a motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-436; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

61-6-134. Certificate furnished by nonresident as proof. (1) The nonresident owner of a motor vehicle not registered in this state may give proof of financial responsibility by filing with the department a written certificate or certificates of an insurance carrier authorized to transact business in the state in which the motor vehicle or motor vehicles described in such certificate is registered, or if such nonresident does not own a motor vehicle, then in the state in which the insured resides, provided such certificate otherwise conforms to the provisions of this part, and the department shall accept the same upon condition that said insurance carrier complies with the following provisions with respect to the policies so certified:

(a) Said insurance carrier shall execute a power of attorney authorizing the department to accept service on its behalf of notice or process in any action arising out of a motor vehicle accident in this state.

(b) Said insurance carrier shall agree in writing that such policies shall be deemed to conform with the laws of this state relating to the terms of motor vehicle liability policies issued herein.

(2) If any insurance carrier not authorized to transact business in this state, which has qualified to furnish proof of financial responsibility, defaults in any said undertaking or agreements, the department shall not thereafter accept as proof any certificate of said carrier whether theretofore filed or thereafter tendered as proof, so long as such default continues.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-437; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

61-6-135. Notice of cancellation or termination of certified policy. When an insurance carrier has certified a motor vehicle liability policy under 61-6-133 or a policy under 61-6-134, the insurance so certified shall not be canceled or terminated until at least 10 days after a notice of cancellation or termination of the insurance so certified shall be filed in the office of the department, except that such a policy subsequently procured and certified shall on the effective date of its certification terminate the insurance previously certified with respect to any motor vehicle designated in both certificates.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-439; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance — notice required for cancellation, 33-23-212.
Motor vehicle liability insurance — advance notice required for nonrenewal, 33-23-214.

61-6-136. Other policies not affected. (1) This part does not apply to or affect policies of automobile insurance against liability that are required by any other law of this state, and those policies, if they contain an agreement or are endorsed to conform to the requirements of this part, may be certified as proof of financial responsibility under this part.

(2) This part does not apply to or affect policies insuring solely the insured named in the policy against liability resulting from the maintenance or use by persons in the insured's employ or on the insured's behalf of motor vehicles not owned by the insured.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-440; amd. Sec. 1952, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability policies to include uninsured motorist coverage, 33-23-201.

61-6-137. Bond as proof of responsibility. (1) Proof of financial responsibility may be furnished by filing with the department the bond of a surety company authorized to transact business in the state or a bond with at least two individual sureties each owning real estate within this state and together having equities equal in value to at least twice the amount of the bond. The real estate must be scheduled in the bond approved by a judge of a court of record. The bond must be conditioned for payments in amounts and under the same circumstances that would be required in a motor vehicle liability policy and may not be cancelable except after 10 days' written notice to the department. Upon the filing of notice to this effect by the department in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the real estate is located, the bond constitutes a lien in favor of the state upon the scheduled real estate of any surety. The lien exists in favor of any holder of a judgment against the person who has filed the bond.

(2) The person in whose favor the lien exists may, for the person's own use and benefit and at the person's sole expense, bring an action or actions in the name of the state against the company or persons executing the bond, including an action or proceeding to foreclose any lien that may exist upon the real estate of any person who has executed the bond. The provisions of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice in the foreclosure actions or proceedings. The provisions of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure relative to new trials and appeals, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, apply to the actions or proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-441; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1953, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

61-6-138. Money or securities as proof of responsibility. (1) Proof of financial responsibility may be evidenced by the certificate of the state treasurer that the person named in the certificate has deposited with the treasurer $55,000 in cash, or securities that may legally be purchased by savings banks or for trust funds of a market value of $55,000. The state treasurer may not accept any deposit and issue a certificate and the department may not accept the certificate unless accompanied by evidence that there are no unsatisfied judgments of any character against the depositor in the county where the depositor resides.

(2) The deposit must be held by the state treasurer to satisfy, in accordance with the provisions of this part, any execution on a judgment issued against the person making the deposit for damages, including damages for care and loss of services, because of bodily injury to or death of any person, or for damages because of injury to or destruction of property, including the loss of use of property, resulting from the ownership, maintenance, use, or operation of a motor vehicle after the deposit was made. Money or securities deposited may not be subject to attachment or execution unless the attachment or execution arises out of a suit for damages as described in this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-442; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1954, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Ex officio State Treasurer, 2-15-1002.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Execution of judgment, Title 25, ch. 13.
Prejudgment attachment, Title 27, ch. 18.
Securities regulation, Title 30, ch. 10.

61-6-139. Owner permitted to give proof for others. Whenever any person required to give proof of financial responsibility hereunder is or later becomes an operator in the employ of any owner, or is or later becomes a member of the immediate family or household of the owner, the department shall accept proof given by such owner in lieu of proof by such other person to permit such other person to operate a motor vehicle for which the owner has given proof as herein provided. The department shall designate the restrictions imposed by this section on the face of such person's license.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-443; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Employment defined, 39-2-101.
Restricted licenses, 61-5-113.

61-6-140. Substitution of proof of responsibility. The department shall consent to the cancellation of any bond or certificate of insurance or the department shall direct and the state treasurer shall return any money or securities to the person entitled thereto upon the substitution and acceptance of other adequate proof of financial responsibility pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-444; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-6-141. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 309, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-445; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-6-142. Duration of proof — when money or securities may be canceled or returned. (1) The department shall direct and the state treasurer shall return to the person entitled any money or securities deposited pursuant to this part as proof of financial responsibility, or the department shall waive the requirement of filing proof under this part, in any of the following events:

(a) at any time after 3 years from the date the proof was required when during the 3-year period preceding the request the department has not received record of a conviction or a forfeiture of bail that would require or permit the suspension or revocation of the license or nonresident's operating privilege of the person by or for whom the proof was furnished;

(b) in the event of the death of the person on whose behalf the proof was filed or the permanent incapacity of the person to operate a motor vehicle; or

(c) in the event the person who has given proof surrenders the person's license to the department.

(2) However, the department may not consent to the return of any money or securities if any action for damages upon a liability covered by the proof is then pending or any judgment upon any liability is then unsatisfied or if the person who has deposited the money or securities has, within 1 year immediately preceding the request, been involved as an operator or owner in any motor vehicle accident resulting in injury or damage to the person or property of others. An affidavit of the applicant as to the nonexistence of the facts or that the applicant has been released from all liability or has been finally adjudicated not to be liable for the injury or damage is sufficient evidence in the absence of evidence to the contrary in the records of the department.

(3) Whenever any person whose proof has been canceled or returned under subsection (1)(c) applies for a license within a period of 3 years from the date proof was originally required, the application must be refused unless the applicant complies with the insurance or bond requirements under 61-6-301 and 61-6-302.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-446; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 218, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1955, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

61-6-143. Self-insurers. (1) Any person in whose name more than 25 motor vehicles are registered may qualify as a self-insurer by obtaining a certificate of self-insurance issued by the department as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The department may, in its discretion, upon the application of such a person, issue a certificate of self-insurance when it is satisfied that such person is possessed and will continue to be possessed of ability to pay judgments obtained against such person.

(3) Upon not less than 5 days' notice and a hearing pursuant to such notice, the department may upon reasonable grounds cancel a certificate of self-insurance. Failure to pay any judgment within 30 days after such judgment shall have become final shall constitute a reasonable ground for the cancellation of a certificate of self-insurance.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-451; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Contested cases — notice, 2-4-601.

61-6-144. Assigned risk plans. After consultation with insurance companies authorized to issue automobile liability policies in this state, the commissioner of insurance shall approve a reasonable plan or plans for the equitable apportionment among such companies of applicants for such policies and for motor vehicle liability policies who are in good faith entitled to but are unable to procure such policies through ordinary methods. When any such plan has been approved, all such insurance companies shall subscribe thereto and participate therein. Any applicant for any such policy, any person insured under any such plan, and any insurance company affected, may appeal to the commissioner of insurance from any ruling or decision of the manager or committee designated to operate such plan. Any person aggrieved hereunder by any order or act of the commissioner of insurance may, within 10 days after notice thereof, file a petition in the district court of Lewis and Clark County for a review thereof. The court shall summarily hear the petition and may make any appropriate order or decree.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 204, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 53-452.

Cross-References

Administrative procedure — judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.
Insurance Commissioner and Department — general powers and duties, Title 33, ch. 1, part 3.
Residual market mechanism defined, 33-19-104.

61-6-145 through 61-6-150 reserved.

61-6-151. Violations — penalties. (1) Any person who shall forge or, without authority, sign any evidence of proof of financial responsibility or who files or offers for filing any such evidence of proof knowing or having reason to believe that it is forged or signed without authority shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year or both.

(2) Any person whose license or nonresident's operating privilege has been suspended or revoked under this part and who, during such suspension or revocation drives any motor vehicle upon any highway or knowingly permits any motor vehicle owned by such person to be operated by another upon any highway, except as permitted under this part, shall be fined not more than $500 or imprisoned not exceeding 6 months or both.

(3) Any person willfully failing to return a license as required in 61-6-112 shall be fined not more than $500 or imprisoned not to exceed 30 days or both.

(4) Any person who shall violate any provision of this part for which no penalty is otherwise provided shall be fined not more than $500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days or both.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 32, Ch. 204, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1974; Sec. 53-449, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 43, Ch. 204, L. 1951; Sec. 53-458, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-449, 53-458; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 218, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony and misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-6-152 through 61-6-156 reserved.

61-6-157. Creation of online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system. (1) The department, in cooperation with the commissioner of insurance, shall establish an accessible common carrier-based motor vehicle insurance verification system to verify the compliance of a motor vehicle owner or operator with motor vehicle liability policy requirements under 61-6-103, 61-6-301, and 61-6-302 and facilitate or monitor proof of financial responsibility filings under 61-6-133 and 61-6-134.

(2) The department may contract with a private vendor or vendors to establish and maintain the system.

(3) The system must:

(a) send requests to insurers for verification of motor vehicle liability insurance using electronic services established by the insurers, through the internet, world wide web, or a similar proprietary or common carrier electronic system in compliance with the specifications and standards of the insurance industry committee on motor vehicle administration and other applicable industry standards;

(b) include appropriate provisions to secure its data against unauthorized access and to maintain a record of all requests and responses;

(c) be accessible, without fee, to authorized personnel of the department, the courts, law enforcement personnel, county treasurers, and authorized agents under the provisions of 61-3-116;

(d) interface, wherever possible, with existing department and law enforcement systems;

(e) receive insurance data file transfers from insurers under specifications and standards set forth in subsection (3)(a) to identify vehicles that are not covered by an insurance policy;

(f) provide a means by which low-volume insurers that are unable to deploy an online interface with the system can report insurance policy data to the department or its designee for inclusion in the system;

(g) provide a means to track separately or distinguish motor vehicles that are subject to a certificate of self-insurance under 61-6-143, a surety or indemnity bond under 61-6-137, or a deposit of cash or securities under 61-6-138;

(h) be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, subject to reasonable allowances for scheduled maintenance or temporary system failures, to verify the insurance status of any vehicle in a manner prescribed by the department; and

(i) be used only for information-gathering and educational purposes until the completion of an appropriate testing period of not less than 6 months.

(4) The provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, parts 10 and 11, do not apply to the information contained in the verification system.

(5) Every insurer shall cooperate with the department in establishing and maintaining the system and shall provide access to motor vehicle liability policy status information to verify liability coverage:

(a) for a vehicle insured by that company that is registered in this state; and

(b) if available, for a vehicle that is insured by that company or that is operated in this state and that is the subject of an accident investigation regardless of where the vehicle is registered.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 445, L. 2019.**

61-6-158. Vehicle insurance verification and license plate operating account. (1) There is a vehicle insurance verification and license plate operating account in the state special revenue fund type as provided in 17-2-102.

(2) Fees imposed under 61-3-321(7)(b)(ii) and (13), 61-3-333, 61-3-465(1)(b)(i), 61-3-480(2)(c)(i), 61-3-562(1)(a)(ii), or 61-3-701(5) or established and collected under 61-6-105 must be deposited in the account.

(3) The money in the vehicle insurance verification and license plate operating account must be used by the department to pay costs incurred in or associated with the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the system established under 61-6-157 and the contract required in 61-3-338 for the manufacture and distribution of license plates by Montana correctional enterprises or other costs incurred by the department or as otherwise appropriated by the legislature to the department.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 209, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 384, L. 2017.**

Part 2

Liability of Vehicle Owner — Contract Indemnification Limitations

Part Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

61-6-201. Liability of owner for negligence of employee driver. The owner of a vehicle running or traveling upon any highway or road for the conveyance of passengers is liable for all damage to person or property done by any person in the owner's employment as a driver while driving the vehicle, whether done willfully or negligently or otherwise, in the same manner that driver would be liable.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 5, Ch. 8, Ch. 141, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 1748, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 2936; re-en. Sec. 1748, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1112; amd. Sec. 1956, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

Employment defined, 39-2-101.

General liability arising from employment relationship, Title 39, ch. 2, part 7.

61-6-202. Motor carrier transportation contract indemnification — limitation. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a motor carrier transportation contract provision that requires one party to the contract to indemnify, hold harmless, insure, or defend the other party to the contract or the other party's officers, employees, or agents for liability, damages, losses, or costs that are caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of the other party or the other party's officers, employees, or agents is void as against the public policy of this state.

(2) A motor carrier transportation contract may contain a provision requiring one party to the contract to indemnify, hold harmless, or insure the other party to the contract or the other

party's officers, employees, or agents for liability, damages, losses, or costs, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees, only to the extent that the liability, damages, losses, or costs are caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of a third party or of the indemnifying party or the indemnifying party's officers, employees, or agents.

(3) This section does not apply to the Uniform Intermodal Interchange and Facilities Access Agreement administered by the intermodal association of North America or other agreements providing for the interchange, use, or possession of intermodal chassis or containers or other intermodal equipment.

(4) As used in this section, "motor carrier transportation contract" means a contract, agreement, or understanding covering:

(a) the transportation of property for compensation or hire by a motor carrier;

(b) entrance onto a property by a motor carrier for the purpose of loading, unloading, or transporting property for compensation or hire; or

(c) a service incidental to an activity described in subsection (4)(a) or (4)(b), including but not limited to storage of property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Public contracts — construction contract indemnification provisions, 18-2-124.
Construction contract indemnification provisions, 28-2-2111.
Highways and transportation — contract indemnification provisions, 60-2-117.

Part 3
Mandatory Liability Protection

Part Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.
Professional tow trucks, Title 61, ch. 8, part 9.

61-6-301. Required motor vehicle insurance — family member exclusion. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an owner of a motor vehicle that is registered and operated in Montana by the owner or with the owner's permission shall continuously provide insurance against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for bodily injury or death or damage to property suffered by any person caused by maintenance or use of a motor vehicle in an amount not less than that required by 61-6-103, or a certificate of self-insurance issued in accordance with 61-6-143.

(b) Notwithstanding the mandatory motor vehicle liability insurance protection provided for in subsection (1)(a), nothing in this part may be construed to prohibit the exclusion from insurance coverage of a named family member in a motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

(2) It is unlawful for a person to operate a motor vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public as defined in 61-8-101 without a valid policy of liability insurance in effect in an amount not less than that required by 61-6-103 unless the person has been issued a certificate of self-insurance under 61-6-143 or is operating a vehicle exempt under 61-6-303.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 425, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Indemnity, Title 28, ch. 11, part 3.
Insurance Commissioner — general powers and duties, 33-1-311.
Light vehicle reregistration by mail, 61-3-535.
Suspension to continue until judgments paid and proof given, 61-6-123.
Duration of proof — when money or securities may be canceled or returned, 61-6-142.
Mandatory liability protection — exclusions, 61-6-303.

61-6-302. Proof of compliance. (1) The registration receipt required by 61-3-322 must contain a statement that unless the vehicle is eligible for an exemption under 61-6-303, it is unlawful to operate the vehicle without a valid motor vehicle liability insurance policy, or a certificate of self-insurance, as required by 61-6-301.

(2) (a) Each owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall carry in the motor vehicle as proof of compliance with 61-6-301 either:

(i) an insurance card approved by the department but issued by the insurance carrier to the motor vehicle owner; or

(ii) an electronic device on which an electronic document issued by the insurance carrier showing proof of compliance with 61-6-301 may be displayed.

(b) If the insurance card or electronic document is issued under a commercial automobile insurance policy or a self-insured fleet, the insurance card or electronic document must indicate the status as "commercially insured" or "fleet".

(c) A motor vehicle owner or operator shall exhibit the insurance card or display the electronic document on demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department.

(d) A person commits an offense under this subsection if the person fails to carry in the motor vehicle the insurance card or an electronic device on which the electronic document may be displayed or fails to exhibit the insurance card or display the electronic document on demand of a person specified in subsection (2)(c).

(e) For the purposes of this subsection (2), "insurance card" includes an electronic representation or equivalent of a documentary insurance card that the insurer delivers by electronic means, as defined in 33-15-601, to satisfy the requirements of this subsection (2).

(3) In lieu of charging an operator who is not the owner of a vehicle with violating subsection (2), the officer may issue a complaint and notice to appear charging the owner with a violation of 61-6-301 and serve the complaint and notice to appear on the owner of the vehicle:

(a) personally; or

(b) by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address for the owner listed on the registration receipt for the vehicle or, following query through available law enforcement systems, at the address maintained for the vehicle's owner by the jurisdiction in which the vehicle is titled and registered, or both.

(4) An owner or operator charged with violating subsection (2) may not be convicted if:

(a) the arresting or issuing officer or another person authorized to access information from the online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system under 61-6-309 submits to the system, when implemented, a request that provides proof of insurance valid at the time the alleged violation took place; or

(b) when the system under 61-6-157 is not available, the person produces in court or the office of the arresting or issuing officer proof of insurance valid at the time the alleged violation took place.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 348, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 611, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 73, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 369, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Notice required for cancellation — motor vehicle liability insurance, 33-23-212.
Application for registration, 61-3-303.
License to be carried and exhibited on demand, 61-5-116.
Suspension to continue until judgments paid and proof given, 61-6-123.
Duration of proof — when money or securities may be canceled or returned, 61-6-142.

61-6-303. Exempt vehicles. The following vehicles and their drivers are exempt from the provisions of 61-6-301:

(1) a vehicle owned by the United States government or any state or political subdivision;

(2) an implement of husbandry or special mobile equipment that is only incidentally operated on a highway or property open to use by the public;

(3) a vehicle operated upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing the highway from one property to another;

(4) a commercial vehicle registered or proportionally registered in this and any other jurisdiction if the vehicle is covered by a motor vehicle liability insurance policy complying with the laws of another jurisdiction in which it is registered;

(5) a motorcycle or quadricycle;

(6) a vehicle moved solely by human or animal power.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1957, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Public-owned vehicles exempt from registration, 61-3-321.
Special mobile equipment — exemption from registration, 61-3-431.
Proportional registration of fleet vehicles, 61-3-721.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.

61-6-304. Penalties. (1) Conviction of a first offense under 61-6-301 or 61-6-302 is punishable by a fine of not less than $250 or more than $500. A second conviction is punishable by a fine of $350. A third or subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of $500 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days, or both.

(2) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under 61-6-301 or 61-6-302, the sentencing court shall order the surrender of the vehicle registration receipt and license plates for the vehicle operated at the time of the offense if that vehicle was operated by the registered owner or a member of the registered owner's immediate family or by a person whose operation of that vehicle was authorized by the registered owner. The court shall report the surrender of the registration receipt and license plates to the department, which shall immediately suspend the vehicle's registration. The vehicle's registration status may not be reinstated until proof of compliance with 61-6-301 is furnished to the department, but if the vehicle is transferred to a new owner, the new owner is entitled to register the vehicle. The surrendered license plates must be recycled or destroyed by the court unless the court decides to retain the license plates for the owner until the registration suspension has been completed or the requirements for a restricted registration receipt have been met. Upon proof of compliance with 61-6-301 and payment of fees required under 61-3-333 for replacement license plates and registration decal and under 61-3-341 for a replacement registration receipt, during the period of 90 days from the date of a second conviction or 180 days from the date of a third or subsequent conviction, the department shall issue a restricted registration receipt to the offender. A restricted registration receipt limits the use of the motor vehicle operated at the time of the offense to use solely for employment purposes until the date indicated on the restricted registration receipt.

(3) Upon a fourth or subsequent conviction under 61-6-301 or 61-6-302, the court shall order the surrender of the driver's license of the offender, if the vehicle operated at the time of the offense was registered to the offender or a member of the offender's immediate family. The court shall send the driver's license, along with a copy of the complaint and the dispositional order, to the department, which shall immediately suspend the driver's license. The department may not reinstate a driver's license suspended under this subsection until the registered owner provides the department proof of compliance with 61-6-301 and the department determines that the registered owner is otherwise eligible for licensure.

(4) An offender is considered to have been previously convicted for the purposes of sentencing if less than 5 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and a previous conviction.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 592, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 212, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 393, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 534, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 321, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Indemnity, Title 28, ch. 11, part 3.
Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Ways of this state open to the public defined, 61-8-101.

61-6-305 through 61-6-308 reserved.

61-6-309. Law enforcement use of verification system. (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of 61-6-302, a peace officer or authorized employee of a law enforcement agency may, during the course of a traffic stop or accident investigation, access the verification system provided under 61-6-157 to verify whether a motor vehicle is covered by a valid motor vehicle liability policy that meets the requirements of 61-6-103 and 61-6-301.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the response received from the system supersedes an insurance card or electronic document showing proof of compliance with 61-6-301

produced or displayed by a vehicle owner or operator, and notwithstanding the display of an insurance card or electronic document by the owner or operator, the peace officer may issue a complaint and notice to appear to the owner or operator for a violation of 61-6-301 or 61-6-302.

(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply if the vehicle is:

(i) covered under a commercial automobile insurance coverage policy;

(ii) part of a self-insured fleet as provided in 61-6-143; or

(iii) included in an insurance binder, as allowed by 33-15-411, that has not been entered into the system at the time the system is accessed under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Except upon reasonable cause to believe that a driver has violated another traffic regulation or that the driver's vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, a peace officer may not use the verification system to stop a driver for operating a motor vehicle in violation of 61-6-301.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 2015.

CHAPTER 7
ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

Part 1 — Uniform Accident Reporting Act

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61-7-114. Accident reports confidential.
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61-7-118. Penalty for violation.

Part 1
Uniform Accident Reporting Act

61-7-101. Short title — definition. (1) This part will be cited as the "Uniform Accident Reporting Act".

(2) As used in this part, "accident" means any event in which a vehicle collides with any object, person, deceased person, or animal or any event in which a person is injured or killed or property damage is caused as a result of at least one vehicle's movement.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1217; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 235, L. 2011.

61-7-102. Application. The provisions of this part shall apply upon highways and elsewhere throughout the state.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124(part).

Cross-References

Highway code, Title 60, ch. 1.

Highway defined, 61-1-101.

61-7-103. Accidents involving another person or deceased person. The driver of any vehicle who knows or reasonably should have known that the driver has been in an accident with another person or a deceased person shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident or as close to the accident as possible but shall then return to and in every event remain at the scene of the accident until the driver has fulfilled the requirements of 61-7-105. Each stop at the scene of the accident must be made without obstructing traffic more than is necessary.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 210, L. 1939; Subd. (c) amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1202; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 145, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 235, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Homicide, Title 45, ch. 5, part 1.
Offenses furnishing ground for suspension or revocation of license, 61-5-405.

61-7-104. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 235, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1203; amd. Sec. 1958, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

61-7-105. Duty to give information and render aid. (1) The driver of any vehicle required to stop pursuant to 61-7-103 shall:

(a) give the driver's name, address, and the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving and shall upon request and if available show a driver's license to the person struck or the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle collided with;

(b) render to any person injured in the accident reasonable assistance, including the transporting or the making of arrangements for the transporting of the person to a physician, surgeon, or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that the treatment is necessary or if transportation is requested by the injured person; and

(c) if any person in the accident is injured, deceased, or otherwise incapacitated or if notice is required pursuant to 61-7-108, remain at the scene of the accident until an on-duty peace officer with authority to investigate the accident gives the driver express permission to leave. This subsection (1)(c) does not apply when the driver reasonably believes it is necessary to leave the scene in order to seek emergency medical care for any person involved in the accident or to give notice to authorities pursuant to 61-7-108.

(2) A driver may not delegate to another the duties imposed under this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1204; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1959, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 235, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Limits on liability for emergency care rendered at scene of accident or emergency, 27-1-714.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Registration receipts, 61-3-322.
License to be carried and exhibited on demand, 61-5-116.
Habitual traffic offender defined, 61-11-203.

61-7-106. Duty upon striking unattended vehicle. The driver of any vehicle which collides with any vehicle which is unattended shall immediately stop and shall then and there either locate and notify the operator or owner of such vehicle of the name and address of the driver and owner of the vehicle striking the unattended vehicle or shall leave in a conspicuous place in the vehicle struck a written notice giving the name and address of the driver and of the owner of the vehicle doing the striking and a statement of the circumstances thereof.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1205.

61-7-107. Duty upon striking fixtures or other property upon highway. The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting only in damage to fixtures or other property legally upon or adjacent to a highway shall take reasonable steps to locate and notify the owner or person in charge of the property of the accident, of the driver's name and address, and of the registration number of the vehicle being driven and shall upon request and if available exhibit a driver's license and shall report the accident when and as required in 61-7-109.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1206; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1960, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

61-7-108. Immediate notice of accidents. The driver of a vehicle who knows or reasonably should have known that the driver has been involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person, striking the body of a deceased person, or property damage to an apparent extent of $1,000 or more shall immediately by the quickest means of communication give notice of the accident to the local police department if the accident occurs within a municipality, otherwise to the office of the county sheriff or the nearest office of the highway patrol.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1207; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 235, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Duties of Sheriff, 7-32-2121.
Municipal police force, Title 7, ch. 32, part 41.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.

61-7-109. Written reports of accidents — additional information — form of report. (1) The operator of a motor vehicle that is in any manner involved in an accident within this state in which a person is killed or injured or in which damage to the property of a person in excess of $1,000 is sustained shall, within 10 days after the accident, report the matter in writing to the department unless the accident was investigated and reported by a law enforcement officer as provided in subsection (3).

(2) The department may require the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident of which report must be made as provided in this section to file supplemental reports whenever the original report is insufficient and may require witnesses of accidents to render reports.

(3) A law enforcement officer who in the regular course of duty investigates a motor vehicle accident in which a person is killed or injured or in which damage to the property of a person exceeds $1,000, either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or after the accident by interviewing participants or witnesses, shall within 10 days after completing the investigation forward a written report of the accident to the department.

(4) The form of the accident report required under this section must contain information sufficient to enable the department to determine whether the requirements for the deposit of security for safety responsibility are inapplicable by reason of the existence of insurance or other exemptions specified in chapter 6 of this title.

(5) A report required by subsection (1) or (2) may not be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 256, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1208; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 59, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 486, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Local government law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.
Accidents involving snowmobiles, 23-2-635.
State law enforcement, Title 44.
Records and reports of convictions, Title 61, ch. 11.

61-7-110. When driver unable to report. (1) An accident report is not required under this part from any person who is physically incapable of making such report during the period of such incapacity.

(2) Whenever the driver of a vehicle is physically incapable of giving an immediate notice of an accident as required in 61-7-108, and there was another occupant in the vehicle at the time of the accident capable of doing so, such occupant shall make or cause to be given the notice not given by the driver.

(3) Whenever the driver is physically incapable of making a written report of an accident as required in 61-7-109, and such driver is not the owner of the vehicle, then the owner of the vehicle involved in such accident shall within 10 days after learning of such accident, make such report not made by the driver.

(4) Any person who gives information in reports as required in 61-7-109 or in this section, knowing or having reason to believe that such information is false, shall be fined not more than $500 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1209.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-7-111. Accident report forms. (1) The department shall prepare and, upon request, supply to police departments, coroners, medical examiners, sheriffs, garages, and other suitable agencies or individuals forms for accident reports required hereunder, appropriate with respect to the persons required to make such reports and the purposes to be served. The written reports to be made by persons involved in accidents and by investigating officers shall call for sufficiently detailed information to disclose with reference to a traffic accident the causes, conditions then existing, and the persons and vehicles involved.

(2) Every accident report required to be made in writing shall be made on the appropriate form approved by the department and shall contain all of the information required therein unless not available.

(3) The department may suspend the license or permit to drive of any resident or the nonresident operating privilege of any person failing to report an accident as herein provided until such report has been filed.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1210; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 7, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 299, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Suspension of licenses, 61-5-203, 61-5-204.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.

61-7-112. Coroners and medical examiners to report. Each coroner, medical examiner, or other official performing similar functions shall, on or before the 10th day of each month, report in writing to the department the deaths of all persons within the official's respective jurisdiction during the preceding calendar month as the result of traffic accidents, giving the time and place of each accident and the circumstances relating to the accident.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 256, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1211; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 7, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1961, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Office of County Coroner, Title 7, ch. 4, part 29.
Vital statistics — death, Title 50, ch. 15, part 4.
Cadavers and autopsies, Title 50, ch. 21, part 1.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.

61-7-113. Garages to report. The person in charge of any garage or repair shop to which is brought any motor vehicle which shows evidence of having been struck by any bullet or involved in an accident of which report must be made as provided in 61-7-109 shall report to the department within 24 hours after such motor vehicle is received, giving the engine number, registration number, and the name and address of the owner or operator of such vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1212; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Weapons, Title 45, ch. 8, part 3.
Certificate of title — contents, 61-3-202.
Registration receipts, 61-3-322.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.

61-7-114. Accident reports confidential. (1) All required accident reports and supplemental reports must be without prejudice to the individual reporting and must be for the confidential use of the department or other governmental agencies for accident prevention, roadway design, motor carrier safety monitoring purposes, or for the administration of the laws of this state relating to the deposit of security and proof of financial responsibility by persons driving or the owners of motor vehicles. The department may disclose the identity of a person involved in an accident when the identity is not otherwise known or when the person denies being present at the accident.

(2) Except as provided in this section, all accident reports and supplemental information filed as required by this part are confidential and not open to general public inspection. Except as provided in subsection (2)(e), copying of lists of reports is not permitted. The report and supplemental information, including witness statements, filed by law enforcement personnel, as required by this part, may be examined and copied, without obtaining a court order, by:

(a) a person named in the report or involved in the accident;

(b) the representative of the person referred to in subsection (2)(a), designated in writing, or the insurance carrier of that person;

(c) a party to a civil action arising from the accident;

(d) the executor, the administrator, or the attorney representing the executor or administrator if the person is deceased; or

(e) the general public, including commercial entities, for purposes of research into the history of vehicles, but the department may not disclose the name, address, or telephone number of, or other information allowing the identification of, any reporting person, accident victim, peace officer, or other person or any insurer named in a report or supplemental information, including witness statements.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 210, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 256, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1213; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 486, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Records of officers open to public examination, 2-6-1003.
Evidence, Title 26.
When proof of financial responsibility required, 61-6-131.
Records to be kept by Department of Justice, 61-11-102.
Personal representative — powers and duties, Title 72, ch. 3, part 6.

61-7-115. Department to tabulate and analyze accident reports. The department shall tabulate and may analyze all accident reports and shall publish annually or at more frequent intervals statistical information based thereon as to the number and circumstances of traffic accidents.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1214; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
Records and reports of convictions, Title 61, ch. 11.

61-7-116. Any incorporated city permitted to require accident reports. Any incorporated city, town, village, or other municipality may by ordinance require that the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident shall also file with a designated city department a report of such accident or a copy of any report herein required to be filed with the department of justice. All such reports shall be for the confidential use of the city department and subject to the provisions of 61-7-114.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1215; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Municipalities — powers, 7-1-4124.
Organization and incorporation of new municipalities, Title 7, ch. 2, part 41.

61-7-117. Uniformity of interpretation. This part shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 210, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1216.

61-7-118. Penalty for violation. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a person violating any provision of 61-7-103, 61-7-105 through 61-7-110, or 61-7-112 through 61-7-114 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon a first conviction, the offender shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200 or more than $300 or by imprisonment for not more than 20 days. For a second conviction within 1 year of the first conviction, the offender shall be punished by a fine of not less than $300 or more than $400, by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year of the first conviction, an offender shall be punished by a fine of not less than $400 or more than $500, by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

(2) A driver failing to comply with any provisions of 61-7-103 or 61-7-105 in an accident resulting in injury to any person shall upon conviction be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than 30 days or more than 1 year, by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(3) A driver failing to comply with any provision of 61-7-103 or 61-7-105 in an accident resulting in serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101, or death of any person or resulting in the driver striking the body of a deceased person shall upon conviction be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 1 year or more than 10 years, by a fine in an amount not to exceed $50,000, or by both fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction, the department shall also revoke the driver's license, permit to drive, or any nonresident operating privilege for the period prescribed in 61-5-205.

(4) Subject to the limitations of 46-18-231(3), an offender who fails to pay a fine shall be imprisoned in the county jail in the county in which the offense was committed, and the punishment must be commuted at the rate of 1 day's incarceration for each $75 of the fine.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 299, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 235, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

CHAPTER 8
TRAFFIC REGULATION

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61-8-1033. Forfeiture procedure.

Chapter Cross-References

Parking citations within capitol complex, 2-17-816.
Municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.
Disability parking permits, 49-4-301 through 49-4-306.

Part 1
General Provisions

61-8-101. Application — exceptions. (1) As used in this chapter, "ways of this state open to the public" means any highway, road, alley, lane, parking area, or other public or private place adapted and fitted for public travel that is in common use by the public.

(2) The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways except:

(a) where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section;

(b) the provisions of 61-8-301 and 61-8-1002(1) and (2), with regard to operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs, apply anywhere within this state;

(c) the provisions of 61-8-301 and 61-8-1002, except under the influence of a dangerous drug and 61-8-1002(2), with regard to operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, apply upon all ways of this state open to the public.

(3) The operation of motor vehicles directly across the public roads and highways of this state, especially as required in the transportation of natural resource products, including agricultural products and livestock, shall not be considered to be the operation of such vehicles on the public roads and highways of this state or on ways of this state open to the public, provided that such crossings are adequately marked with warning signs or devices. Such crossings are subject to provisions relating to stopping before entry and to restoration of any damage as may reasonably be prescribed by the state or local agency in control of safety of operation of the public highway involved.

History: (1)En. Sec. 22, Ch. 263, L. 1955; Sec. 32-2124, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1959; Sec. 32-2124.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124(part), 32-2124.1; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 659, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Highway code, Title 60, ch. 1.
Flagger escorts — livestock on highways, 60-7-204.
Highway defined, 61-1-101.
Definition of alcohol concentration, 61-8-1001.

61-8-102. Uniformity of interpretation — definitions. (1) Interpretation of this chapter in this state must be as consistent as possible with the interpretation of similar laws in other states.

(2) As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means a vehicle of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, an ambulance, or an emergency vehicle designated or authorized by the department.

(b) "Bicycle" means a vehicle propelled solely by human power on which any person may ride, irrespective of the number of wheels, except scooters, wheelchairs, and similar devices. The term includes an electrically assisted bicycle.

(c) "Bicycle trailer" means a device with one or more wheels that is designed to be towed by a bicycle.

(d) "Business district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway when within any 600 feet along a highway there are buildings in use for business or industrial purposes, including but not limited to hotels, banks, office buildings, railroad stations, and public buildings that occupy at least 300 feet of frontage on one side or 300 feet collectively on both sides of the highway.

(e) "Controlled-access highway" means a highway, street, or roadway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right of access to or from the highway, street, or roadway except at the points and in the manner as determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over the highway, street, or roadway.

(f) "Crosswalk" means:

(i) that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; or

(ii) any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrians crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

(g) "Electrically assisted bicycle" means a vehicle on which a person may ride that has two tandem wheels and an electric motor capable of propelling the vehicle and a rider who weighs 170 pounds no faster than 20 miles an hour on a paved, level surface.

(h) "Flag person" means a person who directs, controls, or alters the normal flow of vehicular traffic on a street or highway as a result of a vehicular traffic hazard then present on that street or highway. This person, except a uniformed traffic enforcement officer exercising the officer's duty as a result of a planned vehicular traffic hazard, must be equipped as required by the rules of the department of transportation.

(i) "Highway" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101, but includes ways that have been or are later dedicated to public use.

(j) "Ignition interlock device" means ignition equipment that:

(i) analyzes the breath to determine blood alcohol concentration;

(ii) is approved by the department pursuant to 61-8-1025; and

(iii) is designed to prevent a motor vehicle from being operated by a person who has consumed a specific amount of an alcoholic beverage.

(k) (i) "Intersection" means the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines or if there are no curb lines then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways that join one another at or approximately at right angles or the area within which vehicles traveling on different highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict.

(ii) When a highway includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of the divided highway by an intersecting highway must be regarded as a separate intersection. If the intersecting highways also include two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of the highways must be regarded as a separate intersection.

(l) "Laned roadway" means a roadway that is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic.

(m) "Local authorities" means every county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to enact laws relating to traffic under the constitution and laws of this state.

(n) "Moped" means a vehicle equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion, and an independent power source providing a maximum of 2 brake horsepower. The power source may not be capable of propelling the device, unassisted, at a speed exceeding 30 miles an hour on a level surface. The device must be equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only and does not require clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.

(o) "Noncommercial motor vehicle" or "noncommercial vehicle" means any motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles that is not included in the definition of commercial motor vehicle in 61-1-101 and includes but is not limited to the vehicles listed in 61-1-101(10)(b).

(p) "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals, markings, and devices not inconsistent with this title that are placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic.

(q) "Pedestrian" means any person on foot or any person in a manually or mechanically propelled wheelchair or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person.

(r) "Police vehicle" means a vehicle used in the service of any law enforcement agency.

(s) "Private road" or "driveway" means a way or place in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

(t) "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to and including a highway not comprising a business district when the property on the highway for a distance of 300 feet or more is primarily improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.

(u) "Right-of-way" means the privilege of the immediate use of the roadway.

(v) "Roadway" means the portion of a highway that is improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, including the paved shoulder.

(w) "School bus" has the meaning provided in 20-10-101.

(x) "Sidewalk" means the portion of a street that is between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway and the adjacent property lines and that is intended for use by pedestrians.

(y) "Traffic control signal" means a device, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

(z) "Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street that is built up with structures devoted to business, industry, or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for a distance of one-fourth mile or more.

History: **En. Sec. 155, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-158; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 233, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 374, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

61-8-103. Provisions uniform throughout state — power of local authorities. The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities therein and no local authority shall enact or enforce any ordinance, rule, or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized herein. Local authorities may, however, adopt additional traffic regulations which are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2130.**

Cross-References

Counties — promulgation and enforcement of rules, 7-5-2102.
Municipal ordinances, Title 7, ch. 5, part 42.
Local traffic control devices, 61-8-206.
When local authorities may and shall alter limits, 61-8-310.
When local authorities may restrict right to use roadway, 61-10-128.
Powers of local authorities to regulate traffic, 61-12-101.

61-8-104. Required obedience to traffic laws. It is unlawful and, unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a misdemeanor punishable as provided in 61-8-711 for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2125; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-8-105. Obedience to peace officers, flag persons, crossing guards, and public safety workers. A person may not willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order or direction of a peace officer, flag person, crossing guard, or public safety worker pertaining to the use of the highways by traffic. For purposes of this section:

(1) "peace officer" has the meaning provided in 7-32-303; and

(2) "public safety worker" means a person who is authorized to provide assistance at the scene of an incident that requires traffic control and who is either a member of a paid or volunteer fire department, an emergency medical service provider, a member of a search and rescue team, or a civilian accident investigator appointed by a law enforcement agency.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2126; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Sheriff's Office, Title 7, ch. 32, part 21.
Municipal police force, Title 7, ch. 32, part 41.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Obstructing peace officer, 45-7-302.
Obstructing justice, 45-7-303.
Failure to aid peace officer, 45-7-304.
Obedience to police officers and highway patrol officers, 61-9-105.

61-8-106. Responsibility of public officers and employees. (1) The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, or town, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, except as provided in this section and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) Unless specifically made applicable, the provisions of this chapter except those contained in part 5 of chapter 8 shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2127.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.
Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-107. Police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles. (1) The driver of a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions in this section.

(2) The driver of a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle may:

(a) park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter;

(b) proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;

(c) exceed the speed limits as long as the driver does not endanger life or property;

(d) disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(3) The exemptions granted to a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the vehicle is making use of an audible or visual signal, or both, meeting the requirements of 61-9-402.

(4) The provisions of this section do not relieve the driver of a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, and the provisions do not protect the driver from the consequences of the driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

History: En. Sec. 25.1, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2128; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1962, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Department of Justice to furnish equipment, 44-1-105.
Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
Police vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
Audible and visual signals on vehicles, 61-9-402.

61-8-108. Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles. Every person driving an animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2129.

Cross-References

Vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles, 61-9-107.

61-8-109. Rights of owners of real property not affected — when. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the owner of real property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel by permission of the owner from prohibiting such use or from requiring other or different or additional conditions than those specified in this chapter, or otherwise regulating such use as may seem best to such owner.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2132.

Cross-References

Private road or driveway, 61-8-102.

61-8-110. Forest development road, special service road defined. For the purpose of 61-8-111 and 61-8-112 a "forest development road" is defined as a road located on national forest lands or on a right-of-way acquired by the United States and used for the protection, administration, and utilization of the national forests and other lands administered by the United States forest service; and a "special service road" is defined as a forest development road or segment thereof, the right-of-way for which is controlled by the United States and which is not a part of the highway system of the state or of a county or other public road authority of this state, designated by the forest service, pursuant to the regulations of the secretary of the United States department of agriculture, as a special service road for the purpose of controlling and regulating its use to accomplish the purposes of the secretary of agriculture's regulations applicable to the administration of the forest development transport system.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124.3.

61-8-111. State laws applicable on forest development roads — enforcement. Forest development roads in the state, whether or not they meet the definition of a public highway by the laws of this state, are subject to the traffic laws of this state and the Montana highway patrol and county sheriffs of this state shall have jurisdiction thereon to investigate accidents and enforce the Montana traffic laws.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 139, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124.4.

Cross-References

Sheriff's Office, Title 7, ch. 32, part 21.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Public highway, 61-1-101.

61-8-112. Special service roads not subject to state law enforcement — when. When forest development roads, or segments thereof, are designated as special service roads by the United States forest service and by such designation are subjected to traffic rules in addition to or in conflict with the Montana traffic laws, neither the additional nor conflicting traffic rules so prescribed by the forest service nor the Montana traffic law with which they conflict shall be within the jurisdiction of law enforcement officers of this state as to such special service road.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 139, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124.5.

Cross-References

Cession and retrocession of jurisdiction, Title 2, ch. 1, part 2.

Part 2
Traffic Control Devices

Part Cross-References

Traffic safety program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 1.
Official traffic control devices, 61-8-102.

61-8-201. Obedience to traffic control devices — exception for certain vehicles and funeral processions. (1) Unless otherwise directed by a peace officer, flag person, crossing guard, or public safety worker, the driver of a vehicle shall obey the instructions of an official traffic control device applicable to the driver's vehicle and placed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, a police vehicle, or a highway patrol vehicle and the driver of a motor vehicle in a funeral procession are exempt from obedience to official traffic control devices and flag persons as provided in this chapter.

(2) A provision of this chapter for which traffic control devices or flag persons are required may not be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official traffic control device or flag person is not in proper position and sufficiently legible or visible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section of this chapter does not state that official traffic control devices or flag persons are required, the section is effective even though traffic control devices are not erected or in place.

(3) Official traffic control devices or flag persons that are placed or held in position substantially conforming to the requirements of this chapter and the requirements of the uniform system adopted by the department of transportation pursuant to 61-8-202 are presumed to have been placed by an official act or at the discretion of a lawful authority.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2136; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-202. Department of transportation to adopt manual. The department of transportation shall adopt a manual for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent with this chapter for use upon highways within the state. The manual adopted by the department of transportation must correlate with and so far as possible conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as amended, published by the United States federal highway administration.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2133; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 2003.

Cross-References

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Examination of applicants for driver's license, 61-5-110.

61-8-203. Department of transportation to place traffic control devices on highways it maintains and approve traffic control devices on highways under its jurisdiction. (1) The department of transportation shall place and maintain traffic control devices, conforming to its manual and specifications, upon all highways maintained by the department of transportation that the department considers necessary to carry out the provisions of chapter 9 and this chapter or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

(2) A local authority or other entity may not place or maintain a traffic control device upon a highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation except with the department's permission.

(3) The unauthorized erection of a sign, marker, emblem, or other traffic control device on a highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation by any other entity is a misdemeanor and is punishable as provided in 61-8-712.

(4) The erection or maintenance of a sign, marker, emblem, or traffic control device on a highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation is subject to the rules and specifications that the department adopts and publishes in the interest of public safety and convenience.

(5) (a) An automated enforcement system designed to detect traffic violations that is attached to a traffic control device may not be used to enforce traffic laws.

(b) Subsection (5)(a) does not apply to automated enforcement systems attached to traffic control devices at railroad grade crossings.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134(a) thru (d); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Maintenance agreements with local governments, 60-2-204.
Control of access, Title 60, ch. 5, part 1.
Erection of signs, 61-8-704.
Penalty for erection of unauthorized sign, 61-8-712.

61-8-204. Reward for information on injury to or removal of sign or marker. Upon conviction under the provisions of 61-8-713, a person who furnishes information to law enforcement officers leading to the arrest and conviction of the accused person must be paid a reward from the highway nonrestricted account provided for in 15-70-125 in the sum of $100.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Rewards for apprehension of criminals, 7-32-2301.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-8-205. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 53, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134.3; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

61-8-206. Local traffic control devices. (1) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall place and maintain traffic control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction that they consider necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter or local traffic ordinances or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. All traffic control devices must conform to the state manual and specifications.

(2) (a) An automated enforcement system designed to detect traffic violations that is attached to a traffic control device may not be used to enforce traffic laws.

(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to automated enforcement systems attached to traffic control devices at railroad grade crossings.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2135; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4102.

Powers of local authorities to regulate traffic, 61-12-101.

61-8-207. Traffic control signal legend. Except for lane use control signals and special pedestrian control signals carrying a legend, whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting different colored lights or colored lighted arrows successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red, and yellow may be used. The lights indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) (a) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn left or right unless a traffic control device at the place prohibits either turn. However, vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time the signal is exhibited.

(b) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal shown alone or in combination with another indication may cautiously enter the intersection only to make either the movement indicated by the arrow or another movement that is permitted by another indication shown at the same time. Vehicular traffic making the movements permitted by this subsection (1)(b) must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians who are lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(c) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in 61-8-208, a pedestrian facing a green signal, except when the only green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed in the direction of the green signal across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk. A driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian.

(2) (a) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is warned that the traffic movement permitted by the related green signal is being terminated or that a red signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter. Vehicular traffic may not enter the intersection when the red signal is exhibited after the yellow signal.

(b) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in 61-8-208, a pedestrian facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown.

(3) (a) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal must stop at a marked stop line. If there is not a marked stop line, vehicular traffic must stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. If there is not a marked crosswalk, vehicular traffic must stop before entering the intersection and, except as provided in subsection (3)(c), must remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown.

(b) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal may not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow and must stop at a marked stop line unless the traffic is entering the intersection to make a movement indicated by another signal. If there is not a marked stop line, vehicular traffic must stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. If there is not a marked crosswalk, vehicular traffic must stop before entering the intersection and must remain standing until an indication is shown that permits movement.

(c) (i) Except when a traffic control device is in place that prohibits a turn, vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right or to turn left from a one-way street onto another one-way street after stopping as required under subsection (3)(a). After stopping, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching the intersection close enough to constitute an immediate hazard during the time that the operator is moving within the intersection.

(ii) An operator of a vehicle entering an intersection as provided in subsection (3)(c)(i) shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within the intersection or within an adjacent crosswalk.

(d) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in 61-8-208, a pedestrian facing a steady circular red or red arrow signal alone may not enter the roadway.

(4) (a) If an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section are applicable except as to those provisions that by their very nature can have no application.

(b) A required stop must be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop must be made, but in the absence of any sign or marking, the stop must be made at the signal.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2137; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 53, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Traffic control signal defined, 61-8-102.
Pedestrians subject to traffic regulations, 61-8-501.

61-8-208. Pedestrian control signals. Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" or symbols of a walking person or an upraised palm are in place, the signals indicate as follows:

(1) A pedestrian facing a "Walk" signal or a walking person symbol may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and the operators of all vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian.

(2) A pedestrian may not start to cross the roadway in the direction of a signal exhibiting a flashing or steady "Don't Walk" signal or upraised palm symbol, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the "Walk" signal or walking person symbol shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal or upraised palm symbol is showing. An operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing and is proceeding to the sidewalk or safety island.

(3) A pedestrian may not start to cross a roadway in the direction of a steady "Don't Walk" signal or upraised palm symbol.

History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2138; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 53, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Pedestrian defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-209. Flashing signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic control device, it requires obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) When a red lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, an operator of a vehicle shall stop at a marked stop line. If there is no marked stop line, an operator shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection. If there is no crosswalk, an operator shall stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the operator has a view of approaching traffic. The right to proceed is subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign, as provided in 61-8-344.

(b) When a yellow lens is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes, the operator of a vehicle may proceed through the intersection or past the flashing yellow signal only with caution.

(2) This section does not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of an operator of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing is governed by the provisions of 61-8-347.

History: **En. Sec. 36, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 169, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2139; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 53, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Railroad sign or signal defined, 61-8-713.

61-8-210. Display of unauthorized signs, signals, or markings. (1) A person may not place, maintain, or display upon or in view of a highway any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device that purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic control device, that attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or that hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic control device or flag person.

(2) A person may not place or maintain and a public authority may not permit commercial advertising on an official traffic control device on a highway, except for business signs included as a part of official motorist service panels or roadside area information panels approved by the department of transportation.

(3) This section does not prohibit the erection of signs upon private property adjacent to highways that give useful directional information and that are of a type that cannot be mistaken for official signs.

History: **En. Sec. 37, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2140(a) thru (d); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 53, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Highway encroachments, Title 60, ch. 6.
Removal of unauthorized sign, 61-8-706.
Penalty for erection of unauthorized sign, 61-8-712.

61-8-211. Lane use control signals. When lane use control signals are placed over individual lanes, the signals indicate and apply to operators of vehicles as follows:

(1) An operator of a vehicle may drive in the lane over which a steady downward green arrow signal is located.

(2) An operator of a vehicle must be prepared to vacate, in a safe manner, the lane over which a steady yellow X signal is located because a lane control change is being made to a steady red X signal.

(3) An operator of a vehicle may not use the lane over which the steady red X signal is located.

(4) An operator of a vehicle may use a lane over which a steady white two-way left-turn arrow signal is located for a left turn but not for through travel. The operator must be aware that common use of the lane by oncoming vehicular traffic is also permitted.

(5) An operator of a vehicle may use a lane over which a steady white one-way left-turn arrow signal is located for a left turn but not for through travel.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 53, L. 2003.**

61-8-212. Inoperative traffic control device. An operator of a vehicle approaching an intersection in which an electronic traffic control device is inoperative shall stop in the manner prescribed in 61-8-344, except when directed to proceed by a police officer, highway patrol officer, or traffic control signal.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2007.**

Part 3
Vehicle Operating Requirements

Part Cross-References

Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact, Title 61, ch. 2, part 2.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.
Records and reports of convictions, Title 61, ch. 11.

61-8-301. Reckless driving. (1) A person commits the offense of reckless driving if the person:

(a) operates a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property; or

(b) operates a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property while passing, in either direction, a school bus that has stopped and is displaying the visual flashing red signal, as provided in 61-8-351 and 61-9-402. This subsection (1)(b) does not apply to situations described in 61-8-351(7).

(2) A municipality may enact and enforce 61-8-715 and subsection (1) of this section as an ordinance.

(3) A person who is convicted of the offense of reckless driving or of reckless endangerment of a highway worker is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-715.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 201, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143(1), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 561, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 379, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 567, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 567, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Regulation of motor vehicles, 7-14-4103.
Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.
Resisting arrest, 45-7-301.
Offenses furnishing ground for suspension or revocation of license, 61-5-405.
Application — exceptions, 61-8-101.
Reckless driving — penalty, 61-8-715.

61-8-302. Careless driving. (1) A person operating or driving a vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public shall drive it in a careful and prudent manner that does not unduly or unreasonably endanger the life, limb, property, or other rights of a person using the ways of this state open to the public.

(2) A person who is convicted of the offense of careless driving is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-711 or 61-8-716.

History: En. 32-2143.3 by Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143.3; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 561, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.
Disorderly conduct, 45-8-101.
Public highway defined, 61-1-101.
Careless driving — penalty, 61-8-716.

61-8-303. Speed restrictions. (1) Except as provided in 61-8-309, 61-8-310, and 61-8-312, the speed limit for vehicles traveling:

(a) on an interstate highway outside an urbanized area of 50,000 population or more is 80 miles an hour at all times and the speed limit for vehicles traveling on interstate highways within an urbanized area of 50,000 population or more is 65 miles an hour at all times;

(b) on any other public highway of this state is 70 miles an hour during the daytime and 65 miles an hour during the nighttime;

(c) in an urban district is 25 miles an hour.

(2) A vehicle subject to the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) may exceed the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) by 10 miles an hour in order to overtake and pass a vehicle and return safely to the right-hand lane under the following circumstances:

(a) while traveling on a two-lane road; and

(b) in a designated passing zone.

(3) Subject to the maximum speed limits set forth in subsection (1), a person shall operate a vehicle in a careful and prudent manner and at a reduced rate of speed no greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the amount and character of traffic, visibility, weather, and roadway conditions.

(4) Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with subsection (3), the limits specified in this section are the maximum lawful speeds allowed.

(5) "Daytime" means from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. "Nighttime" means at any other hour.

(6) The speed limits set forth in this section may be altered by the transportation commission or a local authority as authorized in 61-8-309, 61-8-310, 61-8-313, and 61-8-314.

(7) A person who violates this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-725.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 540, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Transportation Commission, 2-15-2502; Title 60, ch. 2, part 1.
Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Urban district, 61-8-102.
Erection of signs, 61-8-704.
Speed penalties, 61-8-725.

61-8-304. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.1; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 681, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 521, L. 1987.

61-8-305. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.2, 32-2144.3, 32-2144.4 by Secs. 2, 3, 4, Ch. 60, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.2, 32-2144.3, 32-2144.4; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 681, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 499, L. 1989.

61-8-306. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.5 by Sec. 5, Ch. 60, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.5.

61-8-307. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.7 by Sec. 7, Ch. 60, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.7.

61-8-308. Permission of authorities to hold speed contest. (1) No race or contest for speed shall be held and no person shall engage in or aid or abet in any motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed on a public highway or street without written permission of the authorities of the state, county, or city having jurisdiction and unless the same is fully and efficiently patrolled for the entire distance over which such race or contest for speed is to be held.

(2) A person who is convicted of violating this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-717.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Penalty for unauthorized speed contest, 61-8-717.

61-8-309. Establishment of special speed zones and temporary special reduced speed limits — engineering and traffic investigation. (1) (a) (i) If the commission determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that a speed limit set by 61-8-303 or 61-8-312 is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at an intersection, curve, or dangerous location or on a segment of a highway less than 50 miles in length under its jurisdiction, or on a highway corridor under its jurisdiction greater than 50 miles in length on which increased crash frequency or fatal crash data is observed, the commission may set a reasonable and safe special speed limit at that location or corridor. In the case of a school zone adjacent to a state highway, the commission is not required to base its speed limit determination solely on the results of the engineering and traffic investigation.

(ii) In the event of a vehicle emergency, adverse weather condition, or identification of another highway safety factor that warrants decreasing the speed limit for reasonable and safe travel, the commission may, in advance of the safety event, adopt localized geographic area temporary special reduced speed limits that are lower than a speed limit set by 61-8-303 or 61-8-312. The temporary special reduced speed limit becomes effective upon posting appropriate fixed or variable signs and shall remain in effect while the fixed or variable signs remain posted.

(b) If a local authority requests the department of transportation or an engineer, as provided in subsection (1)(c)(i), to conduct an engineering and traffic investigation based on the belief that a speed limit on a highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation is greater than is reasonable or safe, the commission may not increase the speed limit under consideration as a result of the investigation.

(c) (i) A local authority may request at its own expense that an engineering and traffic investigation be completed by a licensed professional engineer selected from a list compiled and approved by a committee as provided in subsection (1)(c)(ii).

(ii) A committee containing two department of transportation staff appointed by the director and two representatives of associations whose membership comprises cities, towns, and counties, as authorized by 7-5-2141 and 7-5-4141, shall review credentials submitted by licensed professional engineers and shall determine who appears on the list of individuals authorized to conduct engineering and traffic investigations for local governments. The list must be updated every 2 years.

(iii) Upon completion of an engineering and traffic investigation conducted for a local government, the department of transportation shall submit a report to the commission with findings and recommendations. The commission shall decide on an appropriate speed limit based on the traffic investigation within 120 days from the date the investigation is submitted to the department of transportation.

(d) A local authority may request a temporary special reduced or increased speed zone for a route or route segment that is under consideration for a reduced or increased speed limit under subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c). If a local authority makes multiple requests for temporary special reduced or increased speed zones, the local authority shall prioritize the requests. The department of transportation shall conduct a preliminary visual and engineering review of a route or a route segment for which a temporary special speed zone is requested. The reviewing party must include a representative of the local authority. Upon completion of the preliminary review, if the department of transportation concurs with the local authority that a temporary special reduced or increased speed limit is warranted, a temporary special reduced or increased speed zone may be established upon formal approval by the commission. The temporary special reduced or increased speed limit remains in effect until a complete traffic and engineering study has been done on the route or route segment and the commission has made a determination on changing the speed limit.

(2) Pending completion of an engineering and traffic investigation as provided for in subsection (1), the commission may temporarily set a speed limit of not less than 75 miles an hour on a segment of an interstate highway that it reasonably believes is not suitable for the limit established in 61-8-303(1)(a).

(3) The department of transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs giving notice of special limits. If the special limits apply to a school zone, the department shall consider the use of electronic signs in lieu of or in addition to other appropriate signs. When the signs are erected, the limits are effective for those zones at all times or at other times that the commission sets.

(4) The authority of the commission under this section includes the authority:

(a) to set reduced nighttime speed limits on curves and other dangerous locations; and

(b) to reassess and reset speed limits set by the transportation commission pursuant to this section.

(5) This section does not authorize the commission to set a statewide speed limit.

(6) (a) The violation of a speed limit established under this section, except subsection (2), is a misdemeanor offense and is punishable as provided in 61-8-711.

(b) The violation of a speed limit established under subsection (2) is punishable as provided in 61-8-725.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2145; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 395, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Transportation Commission, Title 60, ch. 2, part 1.

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.

Erection of signs, 61-8-704.

61-8-310. When local authorities may and shall alter limits or establish or alter area of school zone. (1) If a local authority in its jurisdiction determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the speed permitted under 61-8-303 and 61-8-309 through 61-8-313 is greater or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist upon a highway or part of a highway, the local authority may set a reasonable and safe limit that:

(a) decreases the limit at an intersection;

(b) increases the limit within an urban district, but not to more than 65 miles an hour during the nighttime;

(c) decreases the limit outside an urban district, but not to less than 35 miles an hour on a paved road or less than 25 miles an hour on an unpaved road; or

(d) decreases the limit in a school zone or in an area near a senior citizen center, as defined in 23-5-112, or a designated crosswalk that is close to a school or a senior citizen center to not less than 15 miles an hour. If warranted by an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority may adopt variable speed limits to adapt to traffic conditions by time of day, provided that the variable limits comply with the provisions of 61-8-206.

(2) A board of county commissioners may set limits, as provided in subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d), without an engineering and traffic investigation on a county road.

(3) A local authority in its jurisdiction may determine the proper speed for all arterial streets and shall set a reasonable and safe limit on arterial streets that may be greater or less than the speed permitted under 61-8-303 for an urban district.

(4) (a) An altered limit established as authorized under this section is effective at all times or at other times determined by the authority when appropriate signs giving notice of the altered limit are erected upon the highway.

(b) If a local authority decreases a speed limit in a school zone, the local authority shall erect signs conforming with the manual adopted by the department of transportation under 61-8-202 giving notice that the school zone has been entered, of the altered speed limit and the penalty provided in 61-8-726, and that the school zone has ended.

(5) The commission has exclusive jurisdiction to set special speed limits on all state highways or highways located on the commission-designated highway system as defined in 60-1-103 in all municipalities or urban areas. The commission shall set these limits in accordance with 61-8-309.

(6) A local authority establishing or altering the area of a school zone shall consult with the department of transportation and the commission if the school zone includes a state highway or a highway located on the commission-designated highway system as defined in 60-1-103.

(7) A local authority shall consult with district officials for a school when:

(a) establishing or altering the area of a school zone near the school; or

(b) setting a speed limit pursuant to subsection (1)(d) in a school zone near the school.

(8) A speed limit set on an unpaved road under subsection (1)(c) must be the same for all types of motor vehicles that may be operated on the road.

(9) The violation of a speed limit established under subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c) is a misdemeanor offense and is punishable as provided in 61-8-711. The violation of a speed limit established under subsection (1)(d) is a misdemeanor offense and is punishable as provided in 61-8-726.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2146; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 614, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 686, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 287, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 83, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

General powers relating to county roads, 7-14-2102.
County authority to establish speed limits, 7-14-2113.
Regulation of trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4102.
Regulation of motor vehicles, 7-14-4103.
Erection of signs, 61-8-704.

61-8-311. Minimum speed regulations. (1) A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed slow enough to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(2) On a two-lane highway where passing is unsafe because of oncoming traffic or other conditions, the operator of a slow-moving vehicle behind which four or more vehicles are formed in line shall turn off the roadway at the nearest area where a sufficient and safe turnout exists in order to permit the vehicles following it to proceed. If the shoulder of the highway to the right of the slow-moving vehicle is wide enough and is in a condition allowing safe travel, the operator of the slow-moving vehicle may drive onto the shoulder and proceed at a safe speed until passed. As used in this section, a slow-moving vehicle is one that is proceeding at a rate of speed less than the normal flow of traffic at the particular time and place. The department of transportation is authorized to designate and construct turnouts and to erect official traffic control devices at appropriate places advising motorists of this statute.

(3) If the department of transportation or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that slow speeds on any part of a highway impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the commission or the local authority may set a minimum speed limit below which a person may not operate a vehicle except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2147; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4102.
General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Slow-moving vehicles, 61-9-415.

61-8-312. Special speed limitations on trucks, truck tractors, and motor-driven cycles. (1) Except as provided in 61-8-303, 61-8-309, 61-8-310, and subsection (2) of this section, the speed limit for a truck or truck tractor of more than 1 ton "manufacturer's rated capacity" traveling on:

(a) an interstate highway, as defined in 60-1-103, is 70 miles an hour; and

(b) any other public highway is 65 miles an hour.

(2) Except as provided in 61-8-303, 61-8-309, and 61-8-310, the speed limit for a vehicle subject to a term permit under 61-10-124(2)(d) or a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles subject to special permits under 61-10-124(3) is 65 miles an hour unless otherwise stated in the permit.

(3) A person may not operate a motor-driven cycle at any time mentioned in 61-9-201 at a speed greater than 35 miles an hour unless the motor-driven cycle is equipped with a headlamp or lamps that are adequate to reveal a person or vehicle at a distance of 300 feet ahead.

(4) A person who violates this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-725.

History: En. Sec. 45, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2148; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 395, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 438, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 89, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Gross vehicle weight defined, 61-1-101.
Housetrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Lamps on other vehicles and equipment, 61-9-216.

61-8-313. Special speed limitations. (1) A person may not drive a vehicle equipped with solid rubber or cushion tires at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour.

(2) A person may not drive a vehicle over a bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to the bridge or structure when the structure is signposted as provided in this section.

(3) The department of transportation upon request from a local authority may, or upon its own initiative shall, conduct an investigation of a bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and if it finds on investigation that the structure cannot safely withstand vehicles traveling at the speed otherwise permissible under this chapter, the commission shall set the maximum speed of vehicles which the structure can withstand, and the department shall erect and maintain suitable signs stating the maximum speed at a distance of not less than 100 feet before each end of the structure.

(4) Upon the trial of a person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the setting of the maximum speed by the commission and the existence of the signs is conclusive evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to the bridge or structure.

History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2149; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Maintenance and control of bridges, 7-14-2201.
Evidence — complete list of conclusive presumptions, 26-1-601.
General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
Erection of signs, 61-8-704.

61-8-314. Traffic violations in work zone — definitions. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Highway worker" has the same meaning as in 61-8-301.

(b) "Public highway" has the same meaning as in 60-1-103.

(c) "Work zone" means an area on a public highway or on the adjacent right-of-way where construction, repair, maintenance, or survey work is being performed by the department of transportation, a local authority, a utility company, or a private contractor with the department of transportation or with a local authority. The boundaries of the work zone must be clearly identified by the posting of signs.

(2) A person may not operate a motor vehicle in a work zone on a public highway in violation of any of the provisions of part 3 of this chapter.

(3) The speed limit in a work zone must be set by the department of transportation or the local authority based on traffic conditions or the condition of the construction, repair, maintenance, or survey project.

(4) (a) If the department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor determines, based on traffic conditions or the condition of the construction, repair, maintenance, or survey project, that special speed limits in work zones are warranted, then the department, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall post signs that:

(i) conform to the department of transportation's manual on uniform traffic control devices;

(ii) indicate the boundaries of the work zone; and

(iii) display the speed limit in effect within the work zone.

(b) The department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall clearly indicate at the boundary of a work zone that a person who violates any of the provisions of part 3 of this chapter in the work zone is subject to the fine provided in subsection (5)(a).

(c) The department of transportation, the local authority, the utility company, or the private contractor shall remove or cover the signs when no work is in progress and no hazard exists.

(5) A person convicted of a traffic violation in a work zone is guilty of a misdemeanor. On arrest and conviction:

(a) if a highway worker was present in the work zone at the time of the traffic violation and within 1,000 feet of the traffic violation, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than double the penalty provided for the violation in part 7 of this chapter; or

(b) if no highway worker was present in the work zone at the time and place of the traffic violation, the person is subject to the penalty provided for the violation in part 7 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-315. Repealed. Sec. 50, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 1997.

61-8-316. Fleeing from or eluding peace officer. (1) A person operating a motor vehicle commits the offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer if a uniformed peace officer operating a police vehicle in the lawful performance of the peace officer's duty gives the person a visual or audible signal by hand, voice, emergency light, or siren directing the person to stop the motor vehicle and the person knowingly fails to obey the signal by increasing the speed of the motor vehicle, continuing at a speed that is 10 or more miles an hour above the applicable speed limit, extinguishing the motor vehicle's lights, or otherwise fleeing from, eluding, or attempting to flee from or elude the peace officer.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a person convicted of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to an offense under subsection (1) shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 1 year or fined an amount not to exceed $2,000, or both.

(b) A person convicted of an offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer during which the person causes serious bodily injury to or the death of any other person shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years or fined an amount not to exceed $10,000, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Mandatory revocation or suspension of license, 61-5-205.

Reckless driving, 61-8-301.

61-8-317. Right-of-way for vehicles engaged in mobile highway maintenance. The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to an authorized vehicle that is engaged in highway maintenance activities when the authorized vehicle is displaying flashing lights that meet the requirements of the department of transportation.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

61-8-318 and 61-8-319 reserved.

61-8-320. Right-of-way for bicycles. (1) The operator of a motor vehicle may not:

(a) intentionally interfere with the movement of a person who is lawfully riding a bicycle; or

(b) overtake and pass a person riding a bicycle unless the operator of the motor vehicle can do so safely without endangering the person riding the bicycle.

(2) The operator of a motor vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a person who is riding a bicycle within a designated bicycle lane.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

61-8-321. Drive on right side of roadway — exceptions. (1) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle must be operated upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:

(a) when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction under the rules governing the passing movement;

(b) when the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair;

(c) upon a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable on a divided roadway;

(d) upon a roadway designated by official traffic control devices for one-way traffic;

(e) when the operator of a vehicle is complying with the provisions of 61-8-387 or 61-8-388;

(f) when an obstruction exists that makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway; or

(g) when a police vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle is performing a job-related duty as provided in 61-8-107.

(2) A person operating a vehicle to the left of the center of the roadway for any of the reasons provided in subsection (1) shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the roadway that are within a distance that constitutes an immediate hazard.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) and subject to subsection (4), upon all roadways having two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, a vehicle must be driven in the right-hand lane.

(b) A vehicle being operated upon a roadway having two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction is not required to be driven in the right-hand lane when:

(i) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;

(ii) traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow;

(iii) moving left to allow traffic to merge;

(iv) traveling on a roadway within the official boundaries of a city or town, except as provided in subsection (4);

(v) preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway when a left turn is legally permitted;

(vi) exiting onto a left-hand exit from a controlled-access highway;

(vii) an obstruction or hazardous conditions make it necessary to drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane;

(viii) road or vehicle conditions make it safer to drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane; or

(ix) authorized snow-removal equipment is operating on the roadway.

(4) When traveling upon an interstate highway, as defined in 60-1-103, within the official boundaries of a city or town, a vehicle must be driven in the right-hand lane unless otherwise directed or permitted by an official traffic control device.

History: En. Sec. 48, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2151; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 567, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-322. Passing vehicles proceeding in opposite directions. Drivers of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and upon roadways having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction, each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the main-traveled portion of the roadway.

History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2152; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-8-323. Overtaking vehicle on left. The following rules govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions, and special rules provided in this chapter:

(1) The operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the other vehicle at a safe distance and may not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the operator of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle upon an audible signal or the use of signal lamps, as provided in 61-9-218, and may not increase the speed of the vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle. When giving way to the right on a two-lane highway, the operator of the vehicle being overtaken may travel upon the shoulder at a safe speed until passed if the shoulder is wide enough and is in a condition allowing safe travel.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2153; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

61-8-324. Overtaking vehicle on right. (1) The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass on the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

(a) when the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn; or

(b) on a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for two or more lanes of vehicles moving lawfully in the direction being traveled by the overtaking vehicle.

(2) The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle on the right only under conditions permitting safe movement. The movement may not be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway, except that a person operating a bicycle may pass on the shoulder, provided the movement may be done in safety.

History: En. Sec. 51, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2154; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 255, L. 2015.

61-8-325. Limitations on overtaking on the left. (1) A vehicle may not be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the safe operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle overtaken.

(2) A vehicle may not be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

(a) when approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within a distance that creates a hazard in the event that another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction;

(b) when approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing, unless otherwise indicated by an official traffic control device; or

(c) when the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

(3) The limitations provided in this section do not apply upon a one-way roadway.

History: En. Secs. 52, 53, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2155, 32-2156; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Slow-moving vehicles, 61-9-415.

61-8-326. No-passing zones. (1) The department of transportation and local authorities may determine those portions of a highway in their respective jurisdictions where overtaking and passing or driving to the left side of the center of the roadway would be especially hazardous, and they may by official traffic control devices on the highway indicate the beginning and end of these zones. When the official traffic control devices are in place and clearly visible to an ordinarily observant person, an operator of a vehicle shall obey the directions of those devices.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), where official traffic control devices are in place to define a no-passing zone as set forth in subsection (1) an operator of a vehicle may not drive on the left side of the center of the roadway within the no-passing zone or on the left side of a pavement striping designed to mark the no-passing zone throughout its length.

(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to the operator of a faster vehicle passing a bicycle when:

(i) the bicycle is traveling at less than half the posted speed limit;

(ii) the faster vehicle is capable of overtaking and passing the bicycle without exceeding the posted speed limit; and

(iii) there is sufficient clear sight distance to the left side of the center of the roadway to meet the overtaking and passing requirements in 61-8-325.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply under the conditions provided in 61-8-321(1) or to the operator of a vehicle that is turning left into or from an alley, private road, or driveway.

(4) A person who is convicted of violating this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-724.

History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2157; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
Laned roadway defined, 61-8-605.

61-8-327. One-way roadways, rotary traffic islands, and roundabouts. (1) The department of transportation or a local authority may designate a highway, roadway, part of a roadway, or specific lanes under its respective jurisdiction for one-way traffic and shall erect official traffic control devices giving notice of that designation.

(2) Upon a roadway designated by official traffic control devices for one-way traffic a vehicle may be driven only in the direction designated.

(3) A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island or a roundabout may be driven only to the right of the island or the center of the roundabout.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a "roundabout" is a circular intersection where all entering traffic must yield to the vehicles within the intersection.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2158; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.

61-8-328. Driving on roadways laned for traffic. Whenever a roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic, the following rules, in addition to all other consistent rules, apply:

(1) A vehicle must be operated as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and may not be moved from the lane until the operator has first ascertained that the movement can be made with safety.

(2) Upon a roadway that is divided into three lanes and that provides for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle may not be operated in the center lane except:

(a) when overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction where passing is allowed and where the center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance; or

(b) when the center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction that the vehicle is proceeding and the allocation is designated by official traffic control devices.

(3) Official traffic control devices may be erected directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway. Operators of vehicles shall obey the directions of every official traffic control device that designates use of specific lanes.

(4) A person may turn a vehicle left across a lane marked with two yellow lines into a public or private parking lot, private road, private driveway, or roadway if the turn can be made safely and if the person does not hinder the flow of oncoming traffic.

(5) Official traffic control devices may be installed that prohibit the changing of lanes on sections of a roadway, and operators of vehicles shall obey the directions of those devices.

(6) A motor vehicle may not be driven or parked in a bicycle lane that is signed and delineated as a bicycle lane by official traffic control devices.

History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2159; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.
Laned roadway defined, 61-8-605.
Slow-moving vehicles, 61-9-415.

61-8-329. Following too closely. (1) The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the roadway.

(2) A motor vehicle being driven upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district, including in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing other vehicles, must be operated in a manner that allows sufficient space between each vehicle or combination of vehicles to enable any other vehicle to enter and occupy the space without danger. This provision does not apply to funeral processions.

History: En. Sec. 57, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2160; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.
Business district defined, 61-8-102.
Residence district defined, 61-8-102.
Use of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment, 61-9-221.

61-8-330. Driving on divided highways. (1) Where a highway has been divided into two or more roadways by leaving a space delineated by two double yellow lines or two yellow lines with a crosshatch pattern or by a physical barrier or a clearly indicated dividing section that is constructed in a way that impedes vehicular traffic, a vehicle may be driven only upon the right-hand roadway unless directed or permitted by official traffic control devices or police officers to use another roadway.

(2) A vehicle may not be driven over, across, or within a space, barrier, or section described in subsection (1) except through an opening in the physical barrier or dividing section or space or at an established crossover or intersection unless specifically prohibited by a public authority.

History: En. Sec. 58, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2161; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

61-8-331. Restricted and controlled access. (1) A person may not operate a vehicle onto or from a controlled-access roadway except at entrances and exits that are established by public authority.

(2) On a controlled-access highway or facility a person may not:

(a) operate a vehicle over, upon, or across a curb, central dividing section, or other separation or dividing line;

(b) make a left turn or a semicircular or U-turn except through an opening provided for that purpose in the dividing curb, section, separation, or line if travel through the opening is not prohibited by an official traffic control device;

(c) operate a vehicle except in the proper lane, in the proper direction, and to the right of the central dividing curb, separation, section, or line;

(d) operate a vehicle from a local service road except through an opening provided for that purpose in the dividing curb, section, or line that separates the service road from the highway or facility;

(e) construct, operate, or maintain a road or private driveway connecting with the highway or facility without first obtaining permission in writing from the public authority having jurisdiction.

(3) (a) A person who is convicted of violating subsection (1) is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-711.

(b) A person who is convicted of violating subsection (2) is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-720.

History: (1)En. Sec. 59, Ch. 263, L. 1955; Sec. 32-2162, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 10-111, Ch. 197, L. 1965; Sec. 32-4311, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2162, 32-4311(1); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Controlled-access highway defined, 61-8-102.
Private road or driveway defined, 61-8-102.
Penalty for violation, 61-8-720.

61-8-332. Restrictions on use of controlled-access roadway. (1) The department of transportation may by rule and local authorities may by ordinance regulate or prohibit the use of a controlled-access highway under their respective jurisdictions by any class or kind of traffic that is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic or by any vehicle.

(2) The department or the local authority that adopts the prohibitory regulation shall erect and maintain official traffic control devices on the controlled-access highway on which these regulations are applicable. A person may not violate the restrictions stated on the official traffic control devices.

History: En. Sec. 60, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2163; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Municipal ordinances, 7-5-4201.
General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Controlled-access highway defined, 61-8-102.
Pedestrian defined, 61-8-102.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.

61-8-333. Required position and method of turning at intersections. (1) The operator of a vehicle intending to turn at an intersection shall do so as follows:

(a) Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn must be made as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

(b) At an intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn must be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line of the roadway and by passing to the right of the center line where it enters the intersection. After entering the intersection, the left turn must be made so as to leave the intersection to the right of the center line of the roadway being entered. Whenever practicable the left turn must be made in that portion of the intersection to the left of the center of the intersection.

(c) At an intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the operator of a vehicle intending to turn left shall approach the intersection in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of the vehicle. After entering the intersection, the left turn must be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction upon the roadway being entered.

(d) A person making a turn under subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c) is entitled to the full use of the lane from which the turn may be legally made.

(2) (a) A person operating a bicycle who intends to turn left shall follow the course described in subsection (1) or in subsection (2)(b).

(b) A person operating a bicycle who intends to turn left shall approach the turn as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway. After proceeding across the intersecting roadway, the person shall make the turn as close as practicable to the curb or edge of the roadway on the far right side of the intersection. After turning, the person shall yield to through traffic and shall comply with any official traffic control device or police officer regulating traffic on the highway along which the person intends to proceed.

(3) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may place official traffic control devices within or adjacent to intersections, directing that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by vehicles turning at an intersection. Where official traffic control devices that direct a different course are placed, the operator of a vehicle may not turn the vehicle other than as directed by the official traffic control devices.

(4) Where a special lane has been indicated by official traffic control devices allowing operators of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions to make left turns:

(a) a left turn may not be made from any other lane; and

(b) a vehicle may not be operated in the lane except when making a left turn from or onto the roadway or when making a U-turn when that movement is permitted by law.

History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2164; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Secs. 17, 51(2)(a), Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4102.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic laws applicable to persons operating bicycles or mopeds, 61-8-602.
Signal lamps and signal devices, 61-9-218.

61-8-334. Limitation on U-turns — turning on curve or crest of grade prohibited. An operator of a vehicle may not turn the vehicle to proceed in the opposite direction:

(1) unless the movement can be made safely and without interfering with other traffic; or

(2) upon any curve or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade where the vehicle cannot be seen by the operator of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within 500 feet.

History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2165; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

61-8-335. Starting parked vehicle. No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing, or parked unless and until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2166.

Cross-References

Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.

61-8-336. Turning movements and required signals. (1) A person may not turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the vehicle is in proper position upon the roadway as required by 61-8-333 or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway unless the movement can be made with reasonable safety and until an appropriate signal has been given. A person may not turn a vehicle without giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in this section.

(2) A signal of intention to turn right or left, other than when passing, must be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning in any business district, residence district, or urban district.

(3) A signal of intention to turn right or left, other than when passing, must be given continuously during not less than the last 300 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning in areas other than those set forth in subsection (2).

(4) A person may not stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal to the operator of a vehicle immediately to the rear when there is opportunity to give the signal.

History: En. Sec. 64, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2167; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic laws applicable to persons operating bicycles or mopeds, 61-8-602.

61-8-337. Signals by hand and arm or signal device. (1) Any stop or turn signal when required herein shall be given either by means of the hand and arm or by a signal lamp or lamps, except as otherwise provided in subsection (2).

(2) Any motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with and required signal shall be given by a signal lamp or lamps when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of such motor vehicle exceeds 24 inches or when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load thereof exceeds 14 feet. The latter measurement shall apply to any single vehicle, also to any combination of vehicles.

History: En. Sec. 65, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2168.

Cross-References

Signal lamps and signal devices, 61-9-218.

61-8-338. Method of giving hand-and-arm signals. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all signals required in this part that are given by hand and arm must be given from the left side of the vehicle by the operator of the vehicle in the following manner:

(a) For a left turn, the operator's hand and arm must be extended horizontally.

(b) For a right turn, the operator's hand and forearm must be extended upward.

(c) For a stop or a decrease in speed, the operator's hand and arm must be extended downward.

(2) The person operating a bicycle may signal a right turn by extending the right hand and arm horizontally.

History: En. Sec. 66, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2169; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Secs. 20, 51(2)(b), Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Traffic laws applicable to persons operating bicycles or mopeds, 61-8-602.

61-8-339. Vehicle approaching or entering intersection. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), when two or more vehicles enter or approach an intersection from different highways, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching from the right that are close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.

(b) The driver of a vehicle on a highway that intersects another highway without crossing it shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching from the other highway that are close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.

(2) The right-of-way rule declared in subsection (1) is modified at through highways and otherwise as stated in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 67, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2170; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.
Through highway defined, 61-8-341.

61-8-340. Vehicle turning left at intersection. The operator of a vehicle within an intersection intending to turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction that is within the intersection or close enough to the intersection to constitute an immediate hazard. Once the operator has yielded and provided the operator is giving a signal when and as required by this chapter, the operator may make the left turn and the operators of all other vehicles approaching the intersection from the opposite direction shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle making the left turn. The provisions of this section do not apply where it is otherwise directed by official traffic control devices.

History: En. Sec. 68, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2171; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-341. Vehicle entering through highway — definition. (1) The operator of a vehicle shall stop as required by 61-8-344 at the entrance to a through highway and shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles that are approaching close enough on the through highway to constitute an immediate hazard. Once the operator has yielded, the operator may proceed and the operators of all other vehicles approaching the intersection on the through highway shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle proceeding into or across the through highway.

(2) As used in this section, "through highway" means a highway or portion of a highway at the entrances to which vehicular traffic from intersecting highways is required by law to stop before entering or crossing and when stop signs are erected as provided in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 69, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 169, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2172; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Intersection defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-342. Vehicles approaching "Yield" sign. An operator of a vehicle approaching a "Yield" sign is subject to the following provisions:

(1) The operator shall slow to a speed that is reasonable for existing conditions and, if required for safety, shall stop before entering the intersection.

(2) After slowing or stopping, the operator shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway close enough to constitute an immediate hazard during the time that the operator is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.

(3) An operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within crosswalks at the intersection.

(4) If an operator of a vehicle, after having driven past a "Yield" sign, is involved in a collision with another vehicle at an intersection or junction of roadways or with a pedestrian in an adjacent crosswalk, the collision is considered prima facie evidence of the operator's failure to yield right-of-way.

History: **En. Sec. 71, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2174; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.

61-8-343. Vehicle entering roadway from private road, driveway, alley, or public approach ramp. The operator of a vehicle about to enter or cross a roadway from a private road, driveway, alley, or public approach ramp shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway.

History: **En. Sec. 70, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2173; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Private road or driveway defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-344. Vehicles to stop at stop signs. (1) The department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may designate through highways and erect stop signs at specified entrances to these highways or may designate an intersection as a stop intersection and erect stop signs at one or more entrances to that intersection.

(2) The stop sign and its placement must conform to the sign manual adopted by the department of transportation.

(3) An operator of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, in the event there is no crosswalk, the operator shall stop at a clearly marked stop line. If there is not a clearly marked stop line, the operator shall stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the operator has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection except when directed to proceed by a police officer, highway patrol officer, or traffic control signal.

History: **En. Sec. 92, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2195; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic control signal defined, 61-8-102.
Obedience to police officers and highway patrol officers, 61-8-105.
Obedience to traffic control devices, 61-8-201.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
Through highway defined, 61-8-341.

61-8-345. Stop before emerging from alley, driveway, private road, or building. The operator of a vehicle within a business or residence district who is emerging from an alley, driveway, private road, or building shall stop the vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or onto the sidewalk area extending across an alley, driveway, or private road and shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Upon entering the roadway, the operator shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway.

History: **En. Sec. 93, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2196; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Business district defined, 61-8-102.
Pedestrian defined, 61-8-102.
Residence district defined, 61-8-102.
Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-346. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

History: **En. Sec. 72, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 169, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2175; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 2021.**

61-8-347. Obedience to signal indicating approach of train or other on-track equipment. (1) When a person operating a vehicle approaches a railroad crossing under any of the circumstances stated in this section, the operator of the vehicle shall slow the vehicle in order to stop as close as practicable but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad and may not proceed until the operator can do so safely. These requirements apply when:

(a) a clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the presence or immediate approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment;

(b) a crossing gate is lowered or when a flag person gives a signal of the approach or passage of a railroad train or other on-track equipment;

(c) a railroad train approaching the crossing emits an audible signal, except at crossings within quiet zones established under 69-14-620, indicating that the train is an immediate hazard because of its speed or nearness to the crossing;

(d) an approaching railroad train or other on-track equipment is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing;

(e) there is insufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping; or

(f) there is insufficient undercarriage clearance to clear the railroad crossing.

(2) A person may not operate a vehicle through, around, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

History: **En. Sec. 88, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2191; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 323, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Flag person defined, 61-8-102.
Flashing signals, 61-8-209.
Railroad sign or signal defined, 61-8-713.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

61-8-348. All vehicles to stop at certain railroad grade crossings. (1) The department of transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may designate particularly dangerous highway grade crossings of railroads and erect stop signs at these crossings. Where these stop signs are erected, the operator of a vehicle shall stop as close as practicable but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad and may proceed only upon exercising due care.

(2) The operator of a vehicle upon a highway outside of the limits of an incorporated city or town who is approaching a highway grade crossing where a flag person or a mechanical device is not in place or maintained to warn the public of approaching trains or other on-track equipment shall, before crossing the railroad tracks, stop the vehicle as close as practicable but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail if:

(a) a curve in the tracks or vegetation or some other feature or characteristic obscures the view of approaching trains or other on-track equipment; or

(b) a moving train or other on-track equipment is within sight or hearing.

History: **En. Sec. 89, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2192; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 2009.**

Cross-References
Railroad sign or signal defined, 61-8-713.
Operation of trains at grade crossings, 69-14-239.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

61-8-349. Certain vehicles to stop at all railroad grade crossings. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the driver of a motor vehicle carrying seven or more passengers for hire, a school bus with or without passengers, or a vehicle carrying explosive substances or flammable liquids as a cargo or part of a cargo, before crossing at grade any track or tracks of a railroad, shall stop the vehicle as close as practicable but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad and while stopped shall open the door, in the case of a school bus, and shall listen and look in both directions along the track for an approaching train or other on-track equipment and for signals indicating the approach of a train or other on-track equipment and may not proceed until the driver can do so safely. After stopping as required in this section and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so, the operator of a vehicle may cross only in a gear of the vehicle that requires no changing gears while traversing the crossing. The operator may not shift gears while crossing the track or tracks.

(b) A stop is not required at a crossing where a police officer, highway patrol officer, or official traffic control device directs traffic to proceed.

(2) As used in this section, "official traffic control device" does not include a railroad grade crossing signal.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3842, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3842, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-164, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)Ap p. Sec. 90, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1977; Sec. 32-2193, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 284, Ch. 5, L. 1971; Sec. 75-7007, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2193, 72-164(part), 75-7007(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 256, L. 2009.

Cross-References
School bus defined, 20-10-101, 61-8-102.
Flag person defined, 61-8-102.
Railroad sign or signal defined, 61-8-713.
Explosives defined, 61-9-102.
Flammable liquid defined, 61-9-412.
Operation of trains at grade crossings, 69-14-239.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

61-8-350. Moving heavy equipment at railroad grade crossings. (1) A person shall comply with the provisions of this section before operating or moving upon or across the tracks at a railroad grade crossing any crawler-type tractor, steam shovel, derrick, roller, or any equipment or structure that has:

(a) a normal operating speed of 10 or less miles an hour; or

(b) a vertical body or load clearance measured above the surface of the roadway of:

(i) less than one-half inch for each foot of the distance between any two adjacent axles; or

(ii) at least 9 inches.

(2) Notice of an intended crossing must be given to a representative of the railroad and reasonable time must be given to the railroad to provide proper protection at the crossing.

(3) Before making a crossing, the person operating or moving the vehicle or equipment shall first stop the vehicle or equipment as close as practicable but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad and while stopped shall listen and look in both directions along the track for any approaching train or other on-track equipment and for signals indicating the approach of a train or other on-track equipment. The person may not proceed until the crossing can be made safely.

(4) A crossing may not be made when warning is given by automatic signal, crossing gates, a flag person, or other official traffic control device of the immediate approach of a railroad train or car or other on-track equipment. If a flag person is provided by the railroad, movement over the crossing must be under the flag person's direction.

History: En. Sec. 91, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2194; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 256, L. 2009.

Cross-References
Flag person defined, 61-8-102.
Operation of trains at grade crossings, 69-14-239.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

61-8-351. Meeting or passing school bus — vehicle operator liability for violation — penalty. (1) (a) When a school bus that has stopped on the roadway or street to receive or discharge school children has actuated flashing red lights as specified in 61-9-402, a driver of a motor vehicle that is approaching the school bus from either direction:

(i) shall stop the motor vehicle not less than approximately 30 feet from the school bus; and

(ii) may not proceed past the school bus until the school bus ceases operation of its flashing red lights.

(b) A driver of a motor vehicle may not overtake a stopped school bus on the right side of the school bus.

(2) When a school bus that is preparing to stop on the highway or street to receive or discharge school children has actuated flashing amber lights as specified in 61-9-402, a driver of a motor vehicle that is approaching the school bus from either direction shall slow to a rate of speed that is reasonable under the conditions existing at the point of operation and must be prepared to stop on the actuation of flashing red lights when the school bus has stopped.

(3) Each bus used for the transportation of school children must bear upon the front and rear plainly visible signs containing the words "SCHOOL BUS" in letters not less than 8 inches in height.

(4) (a) Each bus used for the transportation of school children must be equipped with visual signals meeting the requirements of 61-9-402. Amber flashing lights must be actuated by the driver approximately 150 feet in cities and approximately 500 feet in other areas before the bus is stopped to receive or discharge school children on the highway or street. Red lights must be actuated by the driver of the school bus only when the school bus is stopped on the highway or street to receive or discharge school children.

(b) A school district board of trustees may adopt a policy prohibiting the operation of amber or red lights when a school bus is stopped at the school site to receive or discharge school children and the receipt or discharge does not involve street crossing by the children. The lights may not be operated in violation of that policy.

(c) If a school bus is stopped outside of the roadway and the school bus will receive or discharge school children in a location outside of the roadway, the school bus may not actuate the flashing red lights so long as the school children do not enter the roadway.

(5) (a) When a school bus route includes a bus stop that requires a school child to cross a roadway, the school bus must be equipped with an extended stop arm that partially obstructs the roadway. A school child may not cross a roadway to enter or exit from a school bus unless the roadway has been partially obstructed by the extended stop arm.

(b) The extended stop arm must be equipped with additional flashing red lights as specified in 61-9-402 and must be capable of extending a distance of at least 54 inches from the school bus at a height of not less than 36 inches.

(c) The board of trustees shall approve each school bus stop that requires a school child to cross a roadway.

(d) A school bus that experiences a mechanical problem or an emergency that requires the school bus to stop at a nondesignated bus stop is not subject to the requirements of this subsection (5).

(6) When a school bus is being operated upon a highway for purposes other than the actual transportation of children either to or from school or for school functions, all markings on the bus indicating "SCHOOL BUS" must be covered or concealed.

(7) The driver of a motor vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus that is on a different roadway or when upon a controlled-access highway and the school bus is stopped in a loading zone that is a part of or adjacent to the highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

(8) (a) A person who observes a violation of this section may prepare a written, in addition to an oral, report indicating that a violation has occurred. The report may contain information concerning the violation, including:

(i) the time and approximate location at which the violation occurred;

(ii) the license plate number and color of the motor vehicle involved in the violation;

(iii) identification of the motor vehicle as a passenger car, truck, bus, motorcycle, or other type of motor vehicle; and

(iv) a description of the person operating the motor vehicle when the violation occurred.

(b) A report under subsection (8)(a) constitutes particularized suspicion under 46-5-401(1) that an operator of the vehicle committed a violation of this section.

(c) A person who observes a violation of this section may file a written or oral complaint with the county sheriff's office. At the sheriff's discretion, the report may be transferred to the highway patrol or city police department. The report must be investigated by a peace officer, and the investigating officer shall contact the reporting party within 30 days to provide an update on the status or outcome of the investigation.

(9) (a) A person who violates subsection (1)(a) is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the following penalties:

(i) for a first offense, a fine of not less than $500 or more than $1,000, a sentence of community service of not less than 50 hours or more than 100 hours, or both;

(ii) for a second offense, a fine of not less than $1,000 or more than $2,000, a sentence of community service of not less than 100 hours or more than 200 hours, or both; and

(iii) for a third or subsequent offense, a fine of not less than $3,000 or more than $5,000, a sentence of imprisonment for a term of not less than 30 days, or both.

(b) Violation of subsection (1)(b) is a misdemeanor and is punishable on conviction by a fine of not more than $1,000, by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

(c) A driver of a motor vehicle who makes contact with any portion of a school bus stopped pursuant to subsection (5), including making contact with an extended stop arm or a school child within 30 feet of a school bus, is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalties allowed in subsection (9)(a).

History: Ap. p. Sec. 94, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 250, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1977; Sec. 32-2197, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 284, Ch. 5, L. 1971; Sec. 75-7007, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2197, 75-7007(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 305, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 46, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 478, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 613, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 613, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

School buses and transportation, Title 20, ch. 10, part 1.
School bus defined, 20-10-101, 61-8-102.
Controlled-access highway defined, 61-8-102.
Reckless driving — passing stopped school bus, 61-8-301.

61-8-352. Prohibited operation of special lighting equipment on school buses. It shall be unlawful to operate any flashing prewarning or warning signal light on any school bus except when the school bus is preparing to stop or is stopped on a highway for the purpose of permitting school children to board or alight from said school bus.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 95, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 250, L. 1965; Sec. 32-2198, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 284, Ch. 5, L. 1971; Sec. 32-2198, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2198, 75-7007(part).

Cross-References

School buses and transportation, Title 20, ch. 10, part 1.
Additional lighting equipment required on certain vehicles, 61-9-208.

61-8-353. Stopping, standing, or parking outside of business or residence districts. (1) Upon any highway outside of a business or residence district no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or main-traveled part of the highway when it is practical to stop, park, or so leave such vehicle off such part of said highway, but in every event an unobstructed width of the highway opposite a standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles. No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle upon such highway unless such vehicle can be seen by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within 500 feet and unless drivers approaching from opposite directions are visible to each other when both are at least 500 feet from the vehicle to be stopped, turned, or parked, except in cases of justifiable emergency.

(2) This section shall not apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled while on the paved or main-traveled portion of a highway in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving such disabled vehicle in such position.

History: **En. Sec. 96, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2199.**

Cross-References

Special parking permits, Title 49, ch. 4, part 3.
Disability parking permit, 49-4-304.
Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Business district defined, 61-8-102.
Residence district defined, 61-8-102.
Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles, 61-8-705.
Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.

61-8-354. Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places — exceptions — definition. (1) A person may not stop, stand, or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer, highway patrol officer, or official traffic control device, in any of the following places:

(a) on a sidewalk;
(b) in front of a public or private driveway;
(c) within an intersection;
(d) within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
(e) on a crosswalk;
(f) within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
(g) within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, or official traffic control device located at the side of a roadway;
(h) between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone, unless the local authorities indicate a different length by signs or markings;
(i) within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
(j) within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of the entrance when properly signposted;
(k) alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic;
(l) on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
(m) upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;
(n) at any place where official traffic control devices prohibit stopping.

(2) A public bus stop may not be established in the areas described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c) and (1)(e). Otherwise, this section does not prohibit the establishment of public bus stops and the regulation of their use by the authority having jurisdiction. A bus stop may only be established pursuant to a traffic and engineering study.

(3) A person may not move a vehicle not lawfully under the person's control into a prohibited area or an unlawful distance away from a curb.

(4) As used in this section, "safety zone" means the area or space that is officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and that is protected or is so marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.

History: **En. Sec. 98, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Secs. 33, 51(1), Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Construction and maintenance of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, 7-14-4122.
Municipal bus service, Title 7, ch. 14, part 44.
Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.
Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Private road or driveway defined, 61-8-102.
Sidewalk defined, 61-8-102.
Obedience to police officers and highway patrol officers, 61-8-105.

Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles, 61-8-705.
Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.
Railroad highway crossings, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

61-8-355. Additional parking regulations. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a vehicle that is stopped or parked on a two-way roadway must be stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel to and within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder.

(2) Except when otherwise provided by the authority having jurisdiction, a vehicle that is stopped or parked on a one-way roadway must be stopped or parked parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway in the direction of authorized traffic movement, with its right-hand wheels within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or as close as practicable to the right edge of the right-hand shoulder or with its left-hand wheels within 18 inches of the left-hand curb or as close as practicable to the left edge of the left-hand shoulder.

(3) A local authority may by ordinance permit angle parking on a roadway, except that angle parking may not be permitted on any commission-designated highway system or state highway, as defined in 60-1-103, unless the department of transportation determines that the roadway is of sufficient width to permit angle parking without interfering with the free movement of traffic.

(4) The authority having jurisdiction may place official traffic control devices prohibiting or restricting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles on a highway where in its judgment this stopping, standing, or parking is dangerous to those using the highway or where the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles would unduly interfere with the free movement of traffic.

History: En. Sec. 99, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-102; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References
Construction and maintenance of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, 7-14-4122.
Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles, 61-8-705.

61-8-356. Prohibition against parking or leaving vehicles on public property — presumption of ownership. (1) A vehicle may not be parked or left standing upon the right-of-way of a public highway for a period longer than 48 hours or upon a city street or state, county, or city property for a period longer than 5 days.

(2) The abandonment of a vehicle, other than a bicycle, on a public highway, a city street, public property, or private property creates a prima facie presumption that the last-registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for the abandonment and is liable for the costs incurred in removing, storing, and disposing of the abandoned vehicle, less the amount realized if the vehicle is sold.

(3) The filing of a theft report with a law enforcement agency prior to the abandonment relieves the last-registered owner of liability under subsection (2).

(4) A person who is convicted of violating this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-719.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 53-901; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 252, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 161, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 161, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References
Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles, 61-8-705.
Penalty for leaving vehicle on public property, 61-8-719.
Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.

61-8-357. Unattended motor vehicles. A person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle may not permit it to stand unattended without first safely securing it in a manner to prevent the vehicle from rolling onto the roadway.

History: En. Sec. 100, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-103; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 2017.

Cross-References
Lamps on parked vehicles, 61-9-214.

61-8-358. Limitations on backing. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic.

History: **En. Sec. 101, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-104.**

61-8-359. Riding on motorcycles or quadricycles. (1) A person operating a motorcycle on public streets or highways may ride only upon the permanent and regular seat attached to the motorcycle. The operator may not carry any other person and another person may not ride on a motorcycle unless the motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person, in which event a passenger may ride upon the permanent and regular seat if designed for two persons or upon another seat firmly attached to the rear or side of the operator.

(2) A passenger may not be carried in a position that will interfere with the operation of the motorcycle or the view of the operator.

(3) A person operating a motorcycle may not carry any packages, bundles, or articles that would prevent the operator from keeping both hands on the handlebars or that would interfere with the operation of the vehicle in a safe and prudent manner.

(4) A person may ride upon a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.

(5) Except as provided in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) and subject to 61-9-101(4), motorcycles must be operated with lights on at all times when operated on any public roadway. A motorcycle may be operated without lights from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset if:

(a) the motorcycle is registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item and if persons and vehicles are clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet; or

(b) the motorcycle is being driven to the nearest repair facility for headlamp repair.

(6) No more than two motorcycles may be operated side by side in a single traffic lane.

(7) All motor vehicles, including motorcycles and quadricycles, are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane, and a vehicle may not be driven or operated in a manner that deprives any other vehicle of the full use of a traffic lane, except that motorcycles may, with the consent of both drivers, be operated no more than two abreast in a single traffic lane.

(8) Every person riding a motorcycle or quadricycle upon a roadway is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle except for those provisions which, by their nature, can have no application.

(9) A person operating a motorcycle or quadricycle shall operate the motorcycle or quadricycle in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times.

History: **En. Sec. 102, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-105; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 345, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 434, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Headlamps on motor vehicles, 61-9-203.
Headgear required for minor motorcycle riders, 61-9-417.
Motorcycle noise suppression devices, 61-9-418.

61-8-360. Obstruction to driver's view or driving mechanism. (1) A person may not operate a vehicle, other than a bicycle, with more than three people in the front seat or with any load or number of people in the front seat that would obstruct the view of the operator to the front or sides of the vehicle or that would interfere with the operator's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(2) A passenger in a vehicle may not ride in a position that interferes with the operator's view ahead or to the sides or that interferes with the operator's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

History: **En. Sec. 103, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-106; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Windshields to be unobstructed and equipped with wipers, 61-9-405.

61-8-361. Driving on mountain highways. The driver of a motor vehicle traveling through defiles or canyons or on mountain highways shall hold the motor vehicle under control and as near the right-hand edge of the roadway as reasonably possible.

History: **En. Sec. 104, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-107; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 352, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Provisions relating to forest development and special service roads, 61-8-110 through 61-8-112.

61-8-362. Coasting prohibited. The driver of a motor vehicle when traveling upon a downgrade may not coast with the transmission of the vehicle in neutral or with the clutch manually disengaged.

History: En. Sec. 105, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-108; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

61-8-363. Following fire apparatus prohibited. The operator of a vehicle other than one on official business may not follow a fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire call closer than 500 feet or drive into or stop the vehicle within 500 feet of where the fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire call.

History: En. Sec. 106, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-109; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Local government — provision for fire equipment, 7-33-4202.
Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
Following too closely, 61-8-329.

61-8-364. Crossing firehose. A vehicle may not be operated over an unprotected hose of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, when the hose is laid down on any roadway, private road, or private driveway, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the agency official in command.

History: En. Sec. 107, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-110; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Obstructing peace officer or other public servant, 45-7-302.

61-8-365. Putting refuse on highway prohibited. (1) A person may not throw or deposit upon a highway glass bottles, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, plastic bottles, plastic, paper, or any other debris. A person may not throw or deposit upon a highway any substance likely to injure a person or animal or damage a vehicle upon the highway.

(2) A person who drops or permits to be dropped or thrown upon a highway destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove the material or cause it to be removed.

(3) A person who removes a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway shall remove glass or any other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from the vehicle.

(4) Except as provided in 61-8-372 and subsection (5) of this section, a person convicted of violating this section shall be fined not more than $250. Except for the maximum fine of $250 as provided in this subsection and except for the maximum fine of $500 as provided in 61-8-372, the penalty provisions of 61-8-711 apply to this section.

(5) A person may not throw or deposit upon a highway plastic bottles or any other containers in which urine or feces have been deposited. A person convicted of violating this subsection shall be fined not more than $1,000. The department shall make information about this subsection available at all weigh stations.

History: En. Sec. 108, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-111; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 67, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Public nuisance, 45-8-111.
Littering unlawful, 75-10-212, 75-10-233.
Game wardens — duty to enforce, 87-1-504.
Forfeiture of fishing or hunting license for littering, 87-6-920.

61-8-366. Riding on fenders or running boards prohibited. Any person driving a vehicle shall not permit passengers to ride on the fenders or running boards, nor shall any passenger ride on the fenders or running boards of a vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 109, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-112.

61-8-367. Riding in housetrailers. No person or persons may occupy a housetrailer while it is being moved upon a public highway unless the trailer is of a semitrailer design where some part of its own weight and that of its cargo rests upon or is carried by its towing unit through the use of a fifth-wheel type trailer hitch mounted on no less than a one-half ton rated truck.

History: En. Sec. 109.1, Ch. 263, L. 1955, as added by Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-112.1.

Cross-References

Dolly or converter gear defined, 61-1-101.

Housetrailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-8-368. Opening and closing vehicle doors. A person may not open a door of a motor vehicle unless it is reasonably safe to do so without interfering with the movement of other traffic. A person may not leave a door open on a side of a vehicle adjacent to moving traffic for a period of time longer than is necessary to load or unload passengers.

History: En. Sec. 109.2, Ch. 263, L. 1955, as added by Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-112.2; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 352, L. 2003.

61-8-369. Shooting from or across road or highway right-of-way. Except as provided in 87-2-803(5), a person may not shoot a firearm from or across the right-of-way of a highway.

History: En. Sec. 110, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-113; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 449, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Observance of right to keep and bear arms, 1-1-224.

Official observance of Montana's hunting heritage, 1-1-226.

Creating hazard, 45-8-113.

61-8-370. Securing of load — requirement — exemptions — violation. (1) (a) A person operating a loaded vehicle on a public highway shall load the vehicle or secure the load sufficiently to prevent littering or creating an obstruction dangerous to the public traveling on the highway.

(b) A person operating a loaded vehicle on a public highway from which any object escapes that may create an obstruction dangerous to the public traveling on the highway, including but not limited to building materials, furniture, and appliances, shall:

(i) remove the object or cause it to be removed from the roadway when removal can be completed safely; and

(ii) if state or local resources are used to complete the removal, pay the cost of the removal as determined by the applicable roadway authority.

(2) The following vehicles are exempt from the provisions in subsection (1):

(a) a commercial motor vehicle that is operating in compliance with state and federal laws and requirements governing the securing of loads;

(b) a vehicle transporting processed or unprocessed agricultural products or inputs, including but not limited to fertilizer, manure, and pesticides;

(c) a vehicle performing road maintenance; and

(d) a vehicle in a marked work zone.

(3) A person who violates the requirements of subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 374, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 426, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-371. Operation of motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle below high-water mark on certain state or federal lands prohibited — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in 77-1-111(3), 77-1-806(4), and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a person may not operate a motor vehicle or an off-highway vehicle below the ordinary high-water mark, as defined in 23-2-301, of class I or class II waters, as defined in 23-2-301, that occurs on state or federal lands or below the ordinary high-water mark of class I waters flowing through private lands, within that portion of the streambed that is covered with water.

(2) A motor vehicle or an off-highway vehicle may be operated below the ordinary high-water mark on state or federal lands on an established road or trail that enters or crosses a stream, but the stream crossing must be by the shortest practical or designated route to the road or trail on the opposite bank.

(3) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) off-highway or motor vehicle use that occurs on state or federal land that is designated for off-highway or motor vehicle use below the ordinary high-water mark if the use is in accordance with the requirements of the authorization;

(b) off-highway or motor vehicle use conducted on state or federal land pursuant to and in accordance with a specific written authorization from the appropriate land management agency for that use below the ordinary high-water mark; and

(c) operation of an off-highway vehicle by a nonambulatory person who is using the vehicle for recreational use, as defined in 23-2-301, as long as operation of the vehicle is prudent and minimizes destruction.

(4) The state may authorize the use of a motor vehicle or off-highway vehicle on state property below the ordinary high-water mark only when the state has determined that the use will have a minimal impact on the streambed and on the fish and wildlife ecology of the stream or river. Federal land management agencies are requested to apply the same criteria when authorizing use of federal land.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Off-road operation of off-highway vehicle in state park or fishing access site prohibited, 23-1-128.

61-8-372. Littering with lighted matches, cigarettes, and other burning material and dumping ashtray prohibited — penalty — posting. (1) A person may not throw away lighted matches, tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, or other lighted material on a forest road, private road, city street, county road, public highway, or railroad right-of-way, except lighted materials used as safety signaling devices, in this state.

(2) A person may not empty an ashtray containing matches, ashes, cigarette or cigar refuse, or other related material on a forest road, private road, city street, county road, public highway, or railroad right-of-way in this state.

(3) A person convicted of violating subsection (1) or (2) shall be fined a maximum of $500.

(4) Municipalities, the forest service, county governments, property owners, public transit operators, federal highway administrators, and any other appropriate entity may, at their discretion, post copies of this section in conspicuous locations.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Littering unlawful, 75-10-212, 75-10-233.
Game wardens — duty to enforce, 87-1-504.
Forfeiture of fishing or hunting license for littering, 87-6-920.

61-8-373 and 61-8-374 reserved.

61-8-375. Unlawful operation of motorized nonstandard vehicle — exception. A person may not operate a motorized nonstandard vehicle on ways of this state open to the public unless the operation is specifically authorized by ordinance or regulation passed by the local governing body of the county, city, or town for a public way under its jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 2005.

61-8-376. Authorized operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices. Electric personal assistive mobility devices, as defined in 61-1-101, are permitted to operate on sidewalks, unless they are prohibited by official traffic control devices, on bike paths, and on roads and streets that have a speed limit of 35 miles an hour or less.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 468, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 468, L. 2005.

61-8-377. Medium-speed electric vehicle — operating requirements. (1) A medium-speed electric vehicle may be operated only on a highway for which the posted speed limit does not exceed 45 miles an hour.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1), the provisions of this chapter apply to the operator of a medium-speed electric vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 233, L. 2007.

61-8-378. Low-speed electric vehicle — golf cart operated by person with low-speed restricted driver's license — operating requirements. (1) A low-speed electric vehicle may be operated only by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license.

(2) A low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license may be operated only on a highway for which the posted speed limit does not exceed 25 miles per hour.

(3) A low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license may not cross a highway with a posted speed limit of greater than 45 miles per hour.

(4) Except as provided in subsections (1) through (3), the provisions of this chapter apply to a low-speed electric vehicle or golf cart operated by a person with a low-speed restricted driver's license.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 2011.**

61-8-379. Definitions. As used in 61-8-380 through 61-8-384, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Funeral escort vehicle" means a motor vehicle properly equipped pursuant to 61-8-381.

(2) "Funeral lead vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including a funeral hearse that is properly equipped pursuant to 61-8-381, leading and facilitating the movement of a funeral procession.

(3) "Funeral procession" means two or more motor vehicles, one of which is carrying the remains of a deceased person, in the daylight hours, including a funeral lead vehicle and a funeral escort vehicle.

History: **En. Sec. 203, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-8-380. Funeral procession right-of-way — funeral lead vehicle and funeral escort vehicle in funeral procession. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), pedestrians and operators of motor vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to a motor vehicle that is part of a funeral procession being led by a funeral lead vehicle or a funeral escort vehicle.

(2) After a funeral lead vehicle enters an intersection, the other vehicles in the funeral procession may continue to follow the funeral lead vehicle through the intersection despite any official traffic control device, right-of-way provisions of this chapter, or local ordinance if the operator exercises reasonable care toward any other vehicle or pedestrian. When the funeral lead vehicle arrives at an intersection, it must comply with the requirements of any official traffic control device, right-of-way provision of this chapter, and local ordinance.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), a driver of a funeral escort vehicle may direct the drivers of other vehicles in a funeral procession to proceed through an intersection or to make turns or other movements despite any official traffic control device. The driver of a funeral escort vehicle may direct and control the drivers of vehicles not in a funeral procession, including those in or approaching an intersection, to stop, proceed, or make turns or other movements without regard to an official traffic control device. Persons directing traffic shall comply with the requirements for a flag person as defined in 61-8-102. However, use of a funeral escort vehicle is not required.

(4) A vehicle in a funeral procession has the right-of-way at intersections regardless of official traffic control devices provided the driver of that vehicle and the drivers of all vehicles in the funeral procession meet all the requirements of 61-8-379 through 61-8-384, except that an operator of a vehicle in a funeral procession shall yield the right-of-way to an approaching authorized emergency vehicle giving an audible or visual signal or when directed to do so by a highway patrol officer or police officer. This section does not relieve the driver of a vehicle in a funeral procession from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 338, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-8-381. Equipment required for funeral vehicle — restricted light use. (1) A funeral escort vehicle or a funeral lead vehicle must be equipped with at least one lighted rotating or oscillating lamp exhibiting an amber light or lens visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of 500 feet from the front of the vehicle.

(2) A funeral escort vehicle or a funeral lead vehicle may illuminate a rotating or oscillating amber light only when the vehicle is in use in a funeral procession.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 338, L. 1991.**

61-8-382. Driving in funeral procession. (1) A vehicle in a funeral procession shall follow the preceding vehicle in the funeral procession as closely as is practicable and safe.

(2) An ordinance, law, or regulation requiring that motor vehicles be operated to allow sufficient space between them to enable another vehicle to enter and occupy that space without danger does not apply to vehicles in a funeral procession.

(3) The driver of a motor vehicle in a funeral procession may not drive the vehicle at a speed greater than:

(a) 55 miles per hour on a highway where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour or more; or

(b) 5 miles per hour below the posted speed limit on other streets or roads.

(4) A vehicle being operated in a funeral procession must have its headlights and taillights illuminated.

(5) The turn signals must be flashing simultaneously as warning lights on a vehicle that:

(a) is the first vehicle in a funeral procession; or

(b) the driver has reason to believe is the last vehicle in a funeral procession.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 338, L. 1991.

61-8-383. Vehicles not in funeral procession. The driver of a vehicle that is not part of a funeral procession may not:

(1) drive between the vehicles forming a funeral procession while they are in motion except when:

(a) authorized to do so by a police officer; or

(b) driving an authorized emergency vehicle emitting an audible or visible signal;

(2) join a funeral procession to secure the right-of-way granted by 61-8-380;

(3) pass a funeral procession on a multiple-lane highway on the funeral procession's right side unless the funeral procession is in the farthest left lane;

(4) enter an intersection, even if the driver is facing a green traffic control signal, when a funeral procession being conducted in compliance with 61-8-379 through 61-8-384 is proceeding through a red traffic control signal at that intersection as permitted by 61-8-380 unless the driver can do so without crossing the path of the funeral procession. If the red signal changes to green while the funeral procession is within the intersection, the driver of a vehicle facing a green signal may proceed subject to the right-of-way of a vehicle participating in a funeral procession.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 338, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-8-384. Liability. The operator of a vehicle in a funeral procession, including a funeral lead vehicle or a funeral escort vehicle, is not negligent if the person operates the vehicle in accordance with the requirements of 61-8-379 through 61-8-384. When no negligence exists on the part of the operator of a vehicle in a funeral procession, none may be imputed to the funeral director or mortician organizing the procession, to the agent of the funeral director or mortician, or to a member of a local law enforcement agency acting as the agent, with or without compensation, of the funeral director or mortician.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 338, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-8-385. Short title. Sections 61-8-385 through 61-8-390 may be cited as the "Yield — Slow Down — Move Over Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-386. Definitions. As used in 61-8-387 through 61-8-390, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Emergency lights" means:

(a) for a law enforcement vehicle or an authorized emergency vehicle, visual signals meeting the requirements of 61-9-402; and

(b) for a highway worker vehicle, visible signals of flashing or rotating amber, red, or green lights.

(2) "Highway worker" means an employee of the department of transportation, a local authority, or any other entity authorized to work on a public highway when operating or working within 100 feet of a highway worker vehicle using its emergency lights.

(3) "Highway worker vehicle" means a vehicle authorized to work within a public highway. The term also includes a tow truck, a snow plow, or any other vehicle with additional lighting equipment activated in addition to its original equipment manufacturer lights.

(4) "Siren" means an audible signal meeting the requirements of 61-9-402.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-387. Yielding to moving emergency vehicle. (1) When being approached by a law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle using its siren or emergency lights, the operator of a moving vehicle, unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, shall:

(a) yield the right-of-way to the law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle; and

(b) unless already stationary and out of the way of the law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle:

(i) drive cautiously to a position that is parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway and is not in an intersection; and

(ii) remain stationary until the law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

(2) An operator of a vehicle who violates this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-8-715(3).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 567, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

2023 Enactment — Coordination: The enactment of this section by sec. 3, Ch. 567, L. 2023, was replaced by sec. 14, Ch. 567, L. 2023, a coordination section.

61-8-388. Approaching stationary emergency vehicle or stationary highway worker vehicle. When approaching a stationary law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle using its siren or emergency lights or a stationary highway worker vehicle using its emergency lights, the operator of a moving vehicle shall:

(1) cautiously and carefully reduce the vehicle's speed to the temporary posted speed limit. If a temporary speed limit has not been posted, the operator of a moving vehicle shall reduce the vehicle's speed to a speed:

(a) 20 miles an hour below the posted speed limit on the interstate if the operator of a moving vehicle is able to move lanes, or to one-half the posted speed limit if the operator of a moving vehicle is not able to move lanes;

(b) 30 miles an hour below the posted speed limit on a state highway or county road if the operator of a moving vehicle is able to move lanes, or to one-half the posted speed limit if the operator of a moving vehicle is not able to move lanes; and

(c) one-half the posted speed limit on any other road; and

(2) follow flagger instructions or instructions on a temporary sign board. If flaggers or a temporary sign board are not yet posted:

(a) if on a multi-lane highway, move to a lane that is not adjacent to the lane in which the stationary law enforcement vehicle, authorized emergency vehicle, or highway worker vehicle is located; or

(b) move over as far as safely possible under the circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-389. Reckless endangerment of emergency personnel — reckless endangerment of highway workers. (1) (a) An operator of a vehicle who violates 61-8-388 when an emergency vehicle is stationary and using its emergency lights or siren commits the offense of reckless endangerment of emergency personnel.

(b) An operator of a vehicle who violates 61-8-388 when a highway worker vehicle is stationary and using its emergency lights commits the offense of reckless endangerment of highway workers.

(2) An operator of a vehicle commits the offense of reckless endangerment of highway workers if the person purposely, knowingly, or negligently drives a motor vehicle in a highway work zone, as defined in 61-8-314, in a manner that endangers persons or property or if the person purposely removes, ignores, or intentionally strikes an official traffic control device in a work zone for reasons other than:

(a) avoidance of an obstacle;
(b) an emergency; or
(c) to protect the health and safety of an occupant of the vehicle or of another person.

(3) Reckless endangerment of emergency personnel or reckless endangerment of highway workers is punishable under 61-8-715.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-390. Duty of emergency driver — duty of highway worker. (1) Sections 61-8-387 and 61-8-388 do not relieve the driver of a law enforcement vehicle or authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

(2) Section 61-8-388 does not relieve a highway worker of the duty to take standard safety precautions or to behave reasonably under the circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-8-391. Operation of golf carts — unlawful operation — exception — required equipment. (1) A person may not operate a golf cart on a public street or highway open to the public unless the operation is specifically authorized by ordinance or regulation passed by the local governing body of the county, city, or town for a public street or highway under its jurisdiction.

(2) A person operating a golf cart under this section must have a valid driver's license.

(3) A golf cart may not be operated on a public street or highway when permitted by this section unless it is equipped with:

(a) at least one and not more than two headlamps;
(b) at least one taillamp;
(c) at least one reflector;
(d) stop lamps;
(e) a horn; and
(f) a mirror that reflects to the driver a view of the highway.

(4) Except as provided in 61-3-321, a golf cart is exempt from titling, registration, and mandatory liability insurance requirements under this title.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 2011.

61-8-392. Lane filtering for motorcycles. (1) An operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle may engage in lane filtering when:

(a) the operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle is on a road with lanes wide enough to pass safely;

(b) the overtaking motorcycle is not operated at a speed in excess of 20 miles an hour when overtaking the stopped or slow-moving vehicle; and

(c) conditions permit continued reasonable and prudent operation of the motorcycle while lane filtering.

(2) As used in this section, "lane filtering" means the act of overtaking and passing another vehicle that is stopped or traveling at a speed not in excess of 10 miles an hour in the same direction of travel and in the same lane.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 2021.

Part 4
Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs
(Repealed)

61-8-401. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142(part); amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 659, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 484, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 612, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 563, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 329, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-402. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 602, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 659, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 99, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 564, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 283, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 153, L. 2013; (6)(b)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2021.

61-8-403. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142.2(a); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 103, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 602, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 659, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 444, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-404. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142.2(b) thru (d); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 103, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 659, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 99, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 564, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 388, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 283, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 153, L. 2013.

61-8-405. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142.3; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 103, L. 1981; amd. Secs. 1, 13, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 564, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 283, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-406. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 99, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 350, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 484, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 329, L. 2003.

61-8-407. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 448, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 253, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 321, L. 2017.

61-8-408. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1963, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-409. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 283, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-410. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 1999.

61-8-411. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 2013.

61-8-412 through 61-8-420 reserved.

61-8-421. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 474, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 421, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-422. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 254, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 321, L. 2017.

61-8-423 through 61-8-439 reserved.

61-8-440. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 1997.

61-8-441. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 547, L. 2005.

61-8-442. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 107, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 258, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 329, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 547, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 309, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-443 through 61-8-459 reserved.

61-8-460. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 348, L. 2005.

61-8-461. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2005.

61-8-462 through 61-8-464 reserved.

61-8-465. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 323, L. 2017.

Part 5
Pedestrian Traffic

Part Cross-References

Pedestrian malls, Title 7, ch. 14, part 47.
Duty and civil liability of pedestrian or driver approaching blind person, 49-4-216.
Penalty for violation of duty or unauthorized use of cane, 49-4-217.
Pedestrian defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-501. Pedestrians subject to traffic regulations. (1) A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any traffic control device that is specifically applicable to the pedestrian unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) Pedestrians are subject to traffic control signals and pedestrian control signals at intersections as provided in 61-8-207 and 61-8-208.

(3) At all other places, pedestrians are accorded the privileges and are subject to the restrictions provided in this part.

(4) Local authorities may by ordinance prohibit pedestrians from crossing a roadway within a local government's jurisdiction, except in a marked crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

(5) Except as provided in 61-8-506(3) and except when provisions by their nature can have no application, a person operating a manually or mechanically propelled wheelchair or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person is accorded the privileges and is subject to the restrictions applicable to pedestrians provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 73, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2176; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 374, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 233, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Municipal ordinances, 7-5-4201.
Business district defined, 61-8-102.
Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic control signal defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-502. Pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalk — school children. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), when traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if necessary, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, but a pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the operator to yield. This provision does not apply under the conditions provided in 61-8-503(2).

(b) When a vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, the operator of a vehicle may make a right-hand turn if the pedestrian is in the opposite half of the roadway and is not in danger.

(2) When a vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear may not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

(3) A person may not operate a vehicle through a column of school children crossing a roadway or past a school crossing guard while the crossing guard is directing the movement of children across a roadway and while the crossing guard is holding an official sign in the stop position.

History: En. Sec. 74, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2177; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 374, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.
Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.
When overtaking on right permitted, 61-8-324.

61-8-503. Crossing at other than crosswalks. (1) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(2) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(3) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

History: En. Sec. 75, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2178.

Cross-References

Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.
Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic control signal defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-504. Operators to exercise due care. Notwithstanding 61-8-501 through 61-8-503, an operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian or with a person propelling a human-powered vehicle or using an assistive mobility device upon a roadway, shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary, and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing a child or an obviously confused, incapacitated, or intoxicated person upon a roadway.

History: En. Sec. 76, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2179; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 374, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.
Horns and warning devices, 61-9-401.

61-8-505. Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalk. Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

History: En. Sec. 77, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2180.

Cross-References

Crosswalk defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-506. Pedestrians on roadways and highways — wheelchair use on highways. (1) Where sidewalks are provided and their use is practicable, a pedestrian may not walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

(2) Where sidewalks are not provided, a pedestrian, other than an intoxicated pedestrian referred to in 61-8-508, who is walking along and upon a highway may walk only on the shoulder, as far as practicable from the edge of the roadway.

(3) A person using a wheelchair or other vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person shall use sidewalks if use of sidewalks is practicable. If use of sidewalks is

unsafe or not practicable, the person may use the wheelchair or other vehicle on a highway, as far as practicable from the center of the roadway.

History: **En. Sec. 78, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2181; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 374, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 233, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Roadway defined, 61-1-101.
Sidewalk defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-507. Pedestrian soliciting rides, business, or contributions. (1) A person may not stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride.

(2) A person may not stand on a highway for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, or contributions from the occupant of a vehicle unless the solicitation is authorized by the proper jurisdictional authority.

History: **En. Sec. 79, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2182; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 2003.**

61-8-508. Intoxicated pedestrian. Except in an authorized crosswalk, a person who is under the influence of alcohol or any drug may walk or stand in the public right-of-way, as defined in 60-1-103, but not on a roadway or a shoulder as is otherwise permissible under 61-8-506(2).

History: **En. Sec. 80, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2183; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 374, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Intoxication — criminal laws limitation, 53-24-106.
Public intoxication not criminal offense, 53-24-107.

61-8-509. Pedestrian's right-of-way on sidewalks. The driver of a vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and all other traffic on the sidewalk.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 450, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Right-of-way defined, 61-8-102.
Sidewalk defined 61-8-102.

61-8-510 through 61-8-514 reserved.

61-8-515. Pedestrian to yield to authorized emergency vehicle. (1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of an audible signal that meets the requirements of 61-9-401(4) and visual signals that meet the requirements of 61-9-402 or of a police vehicle that is properly making use of an audible signal, a pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the authorized emergency vehicle or police vehicle.

(2) This section does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle or a police vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all individuals using the highway or from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 374, L. 2003.**

61-8-516. Operator of vehicle to yield to blind pedestrian. On a way of the state open to the public, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a blind pedestrian who is carrying a visible white cane or who is accompanied by a guide dog.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 374, L. 2003.**

61-8-517. Pedestrians at railroad crossings. A pedestrian may not pass through, around, over, or under a crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2003.**

Part 6
Bicycle Traffic

Part Cross-References

Shared-use paths, Title 60, ch. 3, part 3.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-601. Effect of regulations. (1) It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this part.

(2) Subject to the exceptions stated in this part, the regulations applicable to bicycles apply whenever:

(a) a bicycle or moped is operated on any highway; or

(b) a bicycle is operated on any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

History: En. Sec. 81, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2184; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-8-602. Traffic laws applicable to persons operating bicycles or mopeds. A person operating a bicycle or moped is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle by chapter 7, chapter 9, and this chapter except for special regulations in this part or the provisions of chapter 7, chapter 9, and this chapter that by their nature cannot apply.

History: En. Sec. 82, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2185; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

61-8-603. Riding on bicycles or mopeds. A person propelling a bicycle or moped may ride only on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle or moped.

History: En. Sec. 83, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2186; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

61-8-604. Clinging to vehicles. A person riding on any bicycle, coaster, moped, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle may not attach the conveyance or be attached to any vehicle on a roadway, but a bicycle trailer may be attached to a bicycle.

History: En. Sec. 84, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2187; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1964, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

61-8-605. Riding on roadways. (1) A person operating a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride in the right-hand lane of the roadway, subject to the following provisions:

(a) If the right-hand lane is wide enough to be safely shared with overtaking vehicles, a bicyclist shall ride far enough to the right as judged safe by the bicyclist to facilitate the movement of overtaking vehicles unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so.

(b) A bicyclist may use a lane other than the right-hand lane when:

(i) overtaking and passing a slower vehicle;

(ii) preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;

(iii) the right-hand lane is a dedicated right-turn lane and the bicyclist does not intend to turn right; or

(iv) it is necessary to avoid a condition that makes it unsafe to ride in the right-hand lane of the roadway.

(2) A person operating a bicycle on a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as close to the left side of the roadway as judged safe by the bicyclist.

(3) Persons riding bicycles on a roadway shall ride in single file except when:

(a) riding on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles;

(b) overtaking and passing another bicycle;

(c) riding on a paved shoulder or in a parking lane, in which case the persons may ride two abreast; or

(d) riding within a single lane on a laned roadway with at least two lanes in each direction, in which case the persons may ride two abreast only if they do not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic more than they would otherwise impede traffic by riding single file and in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(4) A bicyclist is not expected or required to ride:

(a) over or through hazards at the edge of a roadway, including but not limited to fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes; or

(b) without a reasonable margin of safety on the right side of the roadway.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2188; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 508, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 169, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 208, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Roadway defined, 61-1-101.
Bicycle turn procedures at intersection, 61-8-333.

61-8-606. Carrying articles. A person operating a bicycle or moped may not carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the person from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

History: En. Sec. 86, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2189; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

61-8-607. Lamps and other equipment on bicycles and mopeds. (1) A bicycle or moped when in use at dawn, dusk, or nighttime must be equipped with:

(a) a lamp on the front emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front. In lieu of a lamp affixed to the bicycle or moped, a bicyclist may use a lamp with equal intensity and visibility affixed to the cyclist's helmet and facing forward.

(b) facing the rear, either a lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear or a red reflector visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the rear when illuminated by low-beam motor vehicle headlamps; and

(c) reflective material large and reflective enough to be visible from the left and right sides from a distance of at least 500 feet when illuminated by low-beam motor vehicle headlamps.

(2) A bicycle or moped must be equipped with a brake enabling the operator to stop the bicycle or moped within no more than 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles an hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

History: En. Sec. 87, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2190; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 255, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 374, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 275, L. 2017.

61-8-608. Bicycles or mopeds on sidewalks and bike lanes. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3)(b), a person operating a bicycle or moped on and along a sidewalk or across a roadway on and along a crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.

(2) A person may not ride a bicycle or moped on and along a sidewalk or across a roadway on and along a crosswalk where the use of a bicycle or moped is prohibited by official traffic control devices.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsections (1) and (2), a person operating a vehicle by human power on and along a sidewalk or across a roadway on and along a crosswalk has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

(b) A moped may be operated on and along a sidewalk or a bicycle path only under human propulsion and may not be operated on or along a sidewalk or bicycle path if the moped is under power from an independent power source.

(c) A moped may be operated under human propulsion or an independent power source on a highway, in a designated bicycle lane on a highway, or on the shoulder of a highway.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 450, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Sidewalk defined, 61-8-102.

61-8-609. Bicycle or moped racing — when lawful. (1) Bicycle or moped racing on a highway is prohibited except as authorized in this section.

(2) Bicycle or moped racing on a highway is lawful when a racing event is approved by state or local authorities on any highway under their respective jurisdictions. Approval of bicycle or moped highway racing events may be granted only under conditions that ensure reasonable safety for all race participants, spectators, and other highway users and that prevent unreasonable interference with traffic flow.

(3) By agreement with the approving authority, participants in an approved bicycle or moped highway racing event may be exempted from compliance with any traffic laws otherwise applicable if traffic control is adequate to ensure the safety of all highway users.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

Part 7
Enforcement — Penalties

61-8-701. Charging violations. In every charge of a violation of any speed regulation in this chapter the complaint, and also the summons or notice to appear shall specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven, also the speed applicable within the district or at the location.

History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2150.

Cross-References

Issuance of arrest warrant upon complaint, 46-6-201.
Summons, Title 46, ch. 6, part 3.
Speed restrictions — basic rule, 61-8-303.

61-8-702. Use of radar — evidence admissible. The speed of any motor vehicle may be measured by the use of radio microwaves or other electrical device. The results of such measurements shall be accepted as evidence of the speed of such motor vehicle in any court or legal proceedings where the speed of the motor vehicle is at issue.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2150.1.

61-8-703. Arrest without warrant in radar cases. (1) The driver of a motor vehicle may be arrested without a warrant under this section if the arresting officer is in uniform or displays the officer's badge of authority and has either:

(a) observed the recording of the speed of the vehicle by radio microwaves or other electrical device; or

(b) received, from the officer who has observed the speed of the vehicle recorded by the radio microwaves or other electrical device, a radio message giving the license number or other sufficient identification of the vehicle and the recorded speed, dispatched immediately after the speed of the vehicle was recorded.

(2) The arrest without a warrant of any driver must be made immediately after the observation or radio message and as the result of uninterrupted pursuit.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2150.2; amd. Sec. 1965, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Highway patrol — procedure for arrests, Title 44, ch. 1, part 11.
Circumstances in which peace officer may make arrest, 46-6-210.
Manner of arrest without warrant, 46-6-312.

61-8-704. Erection of signs — definition. (1) The operator of a motor vehicle may not be arrested under 61-8-703 unless signs have been placed at or near the state line on the primary highway system, outside towns or cities having over 2,500 population, and outside county seats on the primary highways to indicate the legal rate of speed.

(2) Any municipality that uses radio microwaves or another electrical device for law enforcement purposes shall erect and maintain appropriate signs giving notice of that use at a conspicuous place at or near the corporate limits of the municipality, upon each state highway and arterial street or highway entering the municipality, and at other places considered necessary by the municipal authorities for the information of the traveling public.

(3) Signs giving notice that the speed of vehicles may be measured by radio microwaves or other electrical device must be placed as required for speed signs in subsection (1). However, the absence of signs may not in itself invalidate an otherwise proper arrest.

(4) As used in this section, "arterial street" means any federal or state numbered route, controlled-access highway, or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system or highway.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2150.3; amd. Sec. 209, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
When local authorities may and shall alter limits, 61-8-310.

61-8-705. Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles. (1) Whenever any police officer or highway patrol officer finds a vehicle standing upon a highway in violation of any of the provisions of 61-8-353 through 61-8-355, such officer or highway patrol officer is hereby authorized to move such vehicle or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move the same to a position off the paved or main-traveled part of such highway.

(2) Whenever any police officer or highway patrol officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any bridge or roadway or in any tunnel where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic, such officer or highway patrol officer is hereby authorized to provide for the removal of such vehicle pursuant to Title 61, chapter 12, part 4, except that the time limits imposed in 61-12-401 do not apply to removal under this subsection.

History: **En. Sec. 97, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-100; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Prohibition against parking or leaving vehicles on public property, 61-8-356.

61-8-706. Removal of unauthorized sign. (1) An unauthorized sign, emblem, marker, or traffic control device or portion thereof encroaching into, over, or upon a right-of-way of a state highway or controlled-access highway is a public nuisance, and the department may remove it or cause it to be removed without notice and without liability for the removal.

(2) Every sign, signal, or marking prohibited by 61-8-210 is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and the authority having jurisdiction over the highway is hereby empowered to remove the same or cause it to be removed without notice.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 31, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-2134, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 37, Ch. 263, L. 1955; Sec. 32-2140, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134(f), 32-2140(e).**

Cross-References

Public nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30, part 2.
Highway encroachments, Title 60, ch. 6.
Display of unauthorized signs, signals, or markings, 61-8-210.

61-8-707 through 61-8-710 reserved.

61-8-711. Violation of chapter — penalty. (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless the violation is declared to be a felony.

(2) Each person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided shall for a first conviction be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $100. For a second conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $200. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $500.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), failure to pay a fine imposed under this chapter is a civil contempt of the court. On failure of payment of a fine, the court may:

(a) order enforcement of the fine by execution in the manner provided in 25-13-204 and under the provisions of Title 25, chapter 13; or

(b) if the court finds that the person is unable to pay, order the person to perform community service.

(4) If property is not found in an amount necessary to satisfy the unpaid portion of the fine and if the court makes a written finding that community service is inappropriate, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail in the county in which the offense was committed, and the imprisonment shall be the number of days that the fine is divisible by the dollar amount of the incarceration credit contained in 46-18-403.

(5) Upon conviction, the court costs or any part of the court costs may be assessed against the defendant in the discretion of the court.

History: **En. Sec. 154, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-157; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Payment of costs by defendant, 46-18-232.
Execution of fine, 46-19-102.
Putting refuse on highway prohibited, 61-8-365.

61-8-712. Penalty for erection of unauthorized sign. The erection of a sign, emblem, marker, or traffic control device in violation of 61-8-203 is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $300.

History: **En. Sec. 31, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134(e).**

Cross-References

Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.

61-8-713. Injury to or removal of sign or marker as misdemeanor — penalty. (1) A person who maliciously injures, defaces, damages, or removes any sign, signal, or marker, either temporarily or permanently erected on the right-of-way of any secondary, state, or interstate highway for warning, instruction, or information of the public, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of $250, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 60 days, or both. This section applies to secondary, state, or interstate highways that are completed and to secondary, state, or interstate highways that are under construction or repair.

(2) A person may not, without lawful authority, attempt to or in fact alter, deface, injure, knock down, or remove any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal or any inscription, shield, or insignia on or part of the sign or device.

(3) As used in this section, "railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal, or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train or other on-track equipment.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1965; Sec. 32-2134.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 38, Ch. 263, L. 1955; Sec. 32-2141, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2134.1, 32-2141; amd. Sec. 210, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 256, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Criminal mischief, 45-6-101.
Classification — highways and roads, 60-1-201.
Official traffic control devices defined, 61-8-102.
Reward for information on injury to or removal of sign or marker, 61-8-204.

61-8-714. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2142(3), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 301, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 105, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 517, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 455, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 563, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 225, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-715. Reckless driving — reckless endangerment of emergency personnel or highway workers — failure to yield to an emergency vehicle — penalty. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person convicted of reckless driving under 61-8-301(1)(a) or (1)(b), convicted of reckless endangerment of a highway worker under 61-8-389, or convicted of reckless endangerment of emergency personnel or reckless endangerment of highway workers under 61-8-389 shall be punished on a first conviction by imprisonment for a term of not more than 90 days, a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500, or both. On a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than 5 days or more than 6 months, a fine of not less than $500 or more than $1,000, or both.

(2) A person who is convicted of reckless driving under 61-8-301 or convicted of reckless endangerment of emergency personnel or reckless endangerment of highway workers under 61-8-389 and whose offense results in the death or serious bodily injury of another person shall be punished by a fine in an amount not exceeding $10,000, incarceration for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

(3) A person who is convicted of failure to yield to an emergency vehicle under 61-8-346 shall be punished as follows:

(a) for a first conviction, a fine of not less than $500 or more than $1,000, a sentence of community service of not less than 50 hours or more than 100 hours, or both;

(b) for a second conviction, a fine of not less than $1,000 or more than $2,000, a sentence of community service of not less than 100 hours or more than 200 hours, or both; and

(c) for a third or subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than $3,000 or more than $5,000, a sentence of imprisonment for a term of not less than 30 days, or both.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 201, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143(2), (3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 221, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 561, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 46, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 379, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 44, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 552, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 258, L. 2023, inserted (3) regarding the failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 552, L. 2023, in (1) in last sentence substituted "5 days" for "10 days". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 9, Ch. 567, L. 2023, in (1) substituted "61-8-389" for "61-8-301(4)", after "reckless endangerment of emergency personnel" inserted "or reckless endangerment of highway workers", and substituted "61-8-389" for "61-8-346"; in (2) after "reckless endangerment of emergency personnel" inserted "or reckless endangerment of highway workers" and substituted "under 61-8-389" for "under 61-8-346"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Reckless driving, 61-8-301.

61-8-716. Careless driving — penalty. (1) A person who violates the provisions of 61-8-302 is guilty of the offense of careless driving and, except as provided in subsection (2), is punishable as provided in 61-8-711.

(2) A person whose violation of the provisions of 61-8-302 results in the death or serious bodily injury of another person shall be punished by a fine in an amount not exceeding $5,000, by incarceration for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

History: En. 32-2143.4 by Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143.4; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 561, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-8-717. Penalty for unauthorized speed contest. Any person convicted for violation of 61-8-308 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $500 or by imprisonment in the county or city jail for not more than 6 months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 100, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2143.2.

Cross-References

Permission of authorities to hold speed contest, 61-8-308.

61-8-718. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.6 by Sec. 6, Ch. 60, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.6(1); amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 681, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

61-8-719. Penalty for leaving vehicle on public property. Any person or persons violating the provisions of 61-8-356 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $300 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 5 days or more than 90 days or by both fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-909(part).

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.

61-8-720. Controlled-access violation — penalty. A person who violates any of the provisions of 61-8-331(2) is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon arrest and conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5 or more than $100.

History: En. Sec. 10-111, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4311(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 134, L. 1995.

61-8-721. Repealed. Sec. 99, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

History: En. 75-7007 by Sec. 284, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7007(part).

61-8-722. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 242, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 101, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 105, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 447, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 518, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 567, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 255, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 426, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 477, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 225, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-723. Offenses committed by persons under 18 years of age. A person under 18 years of age who is convicted of an offense under this title may not be punished by incarceration, but shall be punished by:

(1) a fine not to exceed the fine that could be imposed on the person if the person were an adult, provided that the person may not be imprisoned for failure to pay the fine;

(2) revocation of the person's driver's license by the court or suspension of the license for a period set by the court;

(3) impoundment by a law enforcement officer designated by the court of the motor vehicle operated by the person for a period of time not exceeding 60 days if the court finds that the person either owns the vehicle or is the only person who uses the vehicle; or

(4) any combination of subsections (1) through (3).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1966, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Operation of vehicle by person under 21 with alcohol concentration of 0.02 or more, 61-8-1002.

61-8-724. No-passing zone violation — penalty. A person convicted of a violation of 61-8-326 shall be punished upon conviction by imprisonment for a period of not more than 6 months or by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $500 or by both fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1995.

61-8-725. Penalty for violation of speed limits — no record for certain violations. (1) A person shall be fined for violating the maximum speed limit in accordance with the following schedules:

(a) for a violation of 61-8-303(1)(a):

Amount of Fine	MPH in Excess of Speed Limit
$40	1 - 10 (daytime)
40	1 - 10 (nighttime)
70	11 - 20
120	21 - 30
200	31+

(b) for a violation of 61-8-303(1)(b), 61-8-309, or 61-8-312:

Amount of Fine	MPH in Excess of Speed Limit
$20	1 - 10 (daytime)
20	1 - 10 (nighttime)
70	11 - 20
120	21 - 30
200	31+

(2) (a) A violation of a speed limit imposed pursuant to 61-8-303 is not a criminal offense within the meaning of 3-1-317, 45-2-101, 46-18-236, 61-8-104, and 61-8-711 and, except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or (4), may not be recorded or charged against a driver's record, and an insurance company may not hold a violation of a speed limit against the insured or increase premiums because of the violation if the speed limit is exceeded by no more than:

(i) 10 miles an hour during the daytime; or

(ii) 5 miles an hour during the nighttime.

(b) If a driver is guilty of exceeding 90 miles an hour in violation of 61-8-303(1)(a), the violation may be recorded or charged against a driver's record and an insurance company may hold the violation against an insured driver's premium.

(3) The surcharge provided for in 3-1-317 may not be imposed for a violation of 61-8-303.

(4) The recordkeeping restrictions provided in subsection (2) with respect to a person's driving record do not apply to a speed limit violation or conviction that was committed by:

(a) a Montana resident in another state whose violation or conviction was reported to the department by a court or the licensing authority in the state in which the violation occurred; or

(b) a person who holds a commercial driver's license regardless of whether or not the violation occurred while the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle.

(5) This section does not apply to the violation of a special speed zone established under 61-8-309 or 61-8-310.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, Sp. L. June 1999; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 393, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 395, L. 2015.

61-8-726. Violating speed limit in school zone — penalty doubled — disposition of fines. (1) A person convicted of violating a special speed limit in a school zone imposed by a local authority pursuant to 61-8-310(1)(d) is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon arrest and conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than double the penalty provided for the violation in 61-8-711.

(2) The fine proceeds must be allocated as follows:

(a) 50% of the fine collected must be distributed as provided in 3-10-601, 46-17-402, or 46-18-235; and

(b) 50% must be forwarded to the local authority that adopted the special speed limit as provided in 61-8-310(1)(d) for the purposes of erecting signs providing notice of the school zone, the speed limit, and the penalty or for other local law enforcement needs.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 83, L. 2009.

61-8-727 through 61-8-730 reserved.

61-8-731. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 455, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 426, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 321, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 2021.

61-8-732. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 23, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 563, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 424, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 321, L. 2017.

61-8-733. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 300, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 583, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 448, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 309, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-734. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 149, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 282, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

61-8-735 through 61-8-740 reserved.

61-8-741. Repealed. Sec. 44, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 424, L. 2015.

Part 8
Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety

Part Cross-References

Commercial driver's license defined, 61-1-101.
Commercial motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Licensing provisions, Title 61, ch. 5, part 1.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.

61-8-801. Purpose. (1) The purpose of this part is to reduce the number of commercial motor vehicle accidents in Montana, to provide greater safety to the motoring public and others by establishing stringent criteria governing the operation of commercial motor vehicles, and to deny the privilege of operating commercial motor vehicles upon the public streets and highways to those commercial motor vehicle operators who are not qualified.

(2) To fulfill this purpose, the legislature intends that this part:

(a) establish criteria and procedures for the operation of commercial motor vehicles that require safety practices commensurate with the danger inherent to their operation;

(b) provide for increased administrative punishment for commercial motor vehicle operators who use alcohol while operating commercial motor vehicles;

(c) provide greater control of commercial motor vehicle operators using the streets and highways; and

(d) conform Montana's laws on commercial driver licensing with federal regulations based on the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, Public Law 99-570, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 211, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 296, L. 2011.

61-8-802. Suspension of commercial driver's license — disqualification — major offenses. (1) Upon receipt of a report of a major offense committed by a person who holds a commercial driver's license or a person required to have a commercial driver's license, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license and disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle:

(a) upon receipt of a report of a first major offense, for 1 year, except that if the major offense occurred while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous materials, the suspension must be for 3 years; or

(b) upon receipt of a report of a second or subsequent major offense arising from an incident that is separate from the prior major offense, for life, subject to department rules adopted to implement federal rules allowing for license reinstatement, if the person is otherwise eligible, upon completion of a minimum suspension period of 10 years.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "major offense" refers to a refusal to take a test under an implied consent law in this or any other jurisdiction, a test result under an implied consent law in any other jurisdiction that shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle or an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more while operating a commercial motor vehicle, or a conviction in this or any other jurisdiction of any of the following offenses:

(a) driving or being in actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug, or a combination of the two;

(b) driving or being in actual physical control of:

(i) a noncommercial motor vehicle and having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more; or

(ii) a commercial motor vehicle and having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more;

(c) leaving the scene of an accident involving death or personal injury or failing to give information and render aid;

(d) using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony, other than a felony under 61-8-804;

(e) operating a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license is revoked, suspended, or canceled or the person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle; or

(f) causing a fatality through negligent or criminal operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 14, 22, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

61-8-803. Suspension of commercial driver's license — serious traffic violations. (1) If the department receives notice from a court or another licensing jurisdiction that a person holding or required to hold a commercial driver's license has been convicted of more than one serious traffic violation in separate incidents within a 3-year period, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license:

(a) for 60 days upon receipt of notice of the second conviction; or

(b) for 120 days upon receipt of notice of the third or subsequent conviction.

(2) For purposes of this section, "serious traffic violation" means conviction, when operating a commercial motor vehicle, of:

(a) speeding 15 or more miles an hour above a posted speed limit;

(b) reckless driving, reckless endangerment of a highway worker, or reckless endangerment of emergency personnel;

(c) improper or erratic traffic lane changes;

(d) following too closely;

(e) a violation of a state law or local ordinance relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, excluding a parking, weight, or equipment violation, that arises in connection with a fatal accident;

(f) operating a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license;

(g) operating a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in one's possession or refusing to display a commercial driver's license upon request;

(h) operating a commercial motor vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license or endorsements, or both, for the specific vehicle type or types being operated or for the passengers or type or types of cargo being transported; or

(i) using a mobile device to send text messages while operating a commercial motor vehicle in violation of a state or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control.

(3) A person is considered to have committed a second or subsequent serious traffic violation if less than 3 years have passed between the date of an offense that resulted in a prior conviction and the date of the offense that resulted in the most recent conviction.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 385, L. 2021.**

61-8-804. Suspension of commercial driver's license — felony involving a controlled substance while driving a commercial vehicle. If the department receives information that a person who holds or is required to hold a commercial driver's license has been convicted of using a commercial or noncommercial motor vehicle in the commission of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance, as defined by federal regulations, or a felony involving possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license for life and may not reinstate the license at any time for any reason.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 428, L. 2003.**

61-8-805. Suspension for operating commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more — hearing. (1) A person whose alcohol concentration is 0.04 or more while the person drives or is in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle is subject to the suspension of the person's commercial driver's license. The peace officer who determines that the person is operating a commercial motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more shall immediately seize the person's commercial driver's license and, on behalf of the department, give the person written notice of the license suspension and the right to a hearing under 61-8-808. Upon receipt of a report certified under penalty of law from the peace officer that the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more, the department shall suspend the license, with no provision for a restricted probationary commercial license, for:

(a) 1 year, upon receipt of the first report of a 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation, except that if the violation occurred in a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous materials, the suspension must be for 3 years; and

(b) life, upon receipt of a second or subsequent 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation report at any time as determined from the records of the department, subject to federal rules allowing for driver rehabilitation and license reinstatement, if otherwise eligible, upon service of a minimum period of 10 years' suspension.

(2) A peace officer who determines that a commercial motor vehicle operator has a measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the operator's body while operating a commercial motor vehicle shall place the commercial motor vehicle operator out of service as mandated by federal regulations for 24 hours.

(3) The fact that a person charged with a violation of the provisions of subsection (1) is entitled to use alcohol under the laws of Montana is not a defense against a charge of violating the provisions of subsection (1).

(4) For purposes of this section, a conviction for violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), (1)(d), or (1)(e) while operating a commercial motor vehicle or a prior refusal to be tested under an implied consent law must be treated as a prior report of a 0.04 or more alcohol concentration violation and must be used in determining the length of the license suspension under subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Driving under influence, 61-8-1002.

61-8-806. Blood and breath tests of commercial vehicle operators — procedure — suspension. (1) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public is considered to have given consent to one or more tests of the person's blood or breath for the purpose of determining a measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the person's body if the person is requested to submit to the test or tests by a peace officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving or in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while having a measured alcohol concentration or detected presence of alcohol. The peace officer may designate the blood or breath test or tests to be administered and may request that the person submit to a preliminary alcohol screening test before a blood, breath, or urine test is taken.

(2) A person who is unconscious or who is otherwise incapable of refusal is considered not to have withdrawn the consent provided in subsection (1).

(3) If a person refuses to submit to one or more tests designated by the officer, the test or tests may not be given, but the officer shall immediately seize the person's commercial driver's license and forward the license to the department, along with a report certified under penalty of law that the officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person was driving or was in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public while having a measurable alcohol concentration or detected presence of alcohol and that the person had refused to submit to one or more tests upon the request of the officer. Upon receipt of the report, the department shall suspend the license for a period provided in subsection (5).

(4) Upon seizure of a person's commercial driver's license, the peace officer shall issue, on behalf of the department, a temporary 5-day noncommercial driving permit, effective 12 hours after the time of issuance, and shall provide the person with written notice of the license suspension and the right to a hearing under 61-8-808.

(5) Upon receipt of the officer's certified report, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license, with no provision for a restricted probationary commercial driver's license, for:

(a) 1 year, upon a first refusal, except that if the violation occurred in a commercial motor vehicle transporting placardable hazardous materials, the suspension for a first refusal must be for 3 years;

(b) life, upon a second or subsequent refusal at any time as determined from the records of the department, subject to department rules adopted to implement federal rules allowing for driver rehabilitation and license reinstatement, if otherwise eligible, upon service of a minimum period of 10 years' suspension. If the person has a prior conviction of a major offense listed in 61-8-802(2) arising from a separate incident, the conviction has the same effect as a previous testing refusal for purposes of this subsection (5)(b).

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 88, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 428, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Chemical tests of suspected drunk drivers, 61-8-1016.

61-8-807. Administration of tests. Tests required under this part must be administered as provided in 61-8-1019.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Administration of chemical drunk driving tests, 61-8-1019.

61-8-808. Right of appeal to court. (1) Within 30 days after notice of the suspension and the right to a hearing has been given by the peace officer under 61-8-805 or 61-8-806, the person may file a petition to challenge the suspension in the district court in the county where the finding of 0.04 or more alcohol concentration or refusal was made.

(2) The court has jurisdiction and shall set the matter for hearing. The court shall give at least 10 days' written notice to the county attorney of the county where the appeal is filed. The county attorney shall represent the state.

(3) The court shall take testimony and examine the facts of the case, except that:

(a) with regard to a suspension under 61-8-805, the issue is limited to whether the person was driving or had actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle while the person's alcohol concentration was 0.04 or more; and

(b) with regard to a suspension under 61-8-806, the issues are limited to whether a peace officer had reasonable grounds to believe that the person had been driving or was in actual physical control of a commercial motor vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public while the person had a measurable or detectable alcohol concentration, whether the person was ordered to submit to a test, and whether the person refused to submit to the test.

(4) The court shall determine whether the petitioner is entitled to a commercial driver's license or is subject to suspension as provided in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 378, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 53, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 105, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Appeal from suspension or revocation of driver's license for failure to take chemical drunk driving test, 61-8-1017.

61-8-809. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 563, L. 1991.**

61-8-810. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 195, L. 1993.**

61-8-811. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 563, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 207, L. 2001.**

61-8-812. Operation of out-of-service vehicle — criminal and civil penalties — suspension of commercial driver's license. (1) A person may not operate a commercial motor vehicle during any period in which the person, the commercial motor vehicle the person is operating, or the motor carrier operation is subject to an out-of-service order issued under state or federal authority.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor and a person convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not less than $25 or more than $500 for the first offense and not less than $25 or more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(3) (a) In addition to the misdemeanor penalties provided in subsection (2) and suspension of the person's commercial driver's license as provided in subsection (4), a person who violates an out-of-service order issued under state or federal authority is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $2,985 for a first offense and a civil penalty of $5,970 for a second or subsequent offense.

(b) The department or the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurred may petition the district court to impose the civil penalty. Venue for an action to collect a civil penalty pursuant to this section is in the county in which the violation occurred.

(c) A civil penalty collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) Upon receipt of notice from a court of competent jurisdiction or another licensing jurisdiction that a person holding a commercial driver's license has been convicted of violating an out-of-service order, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license for:

(a) 6 months for a first conviction;

(b) 2 years for a second conviction if the vehicle being operated by the person at the time of the violation was not transporting placardable hazardous materials or was not designed or being used to transport more than 15 passengers, inclusive of the driver; and

(c) 3 years:

(i) for a second conviction if the vehicle:

(A) being operated at the time of the violation was transporting placardable hazardous materials; or

(B) was designed or being used to transport more than 15 passengers, inclusive of the driver; and

(ii) for a third or subsequent conviction.

(5) For purposes of this section, an offender is considered to have been previously convicted if less than 10 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and a previous conviction.

(6) A temporary or probationary commercial driver's license may not be issued while a commercial driver's license is suspended under subsection (4).

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 105, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

61-8-813. Suspension of commercial driver's license — railroad crossing offenses. (1) The department shall suspend a person's commercial driver's license upon the report of a conviction of any of the following railroad crossing offenses or conduct:

(a) for drivers who are not required to always stop:

(i) failing to slow down and check that the tracks are clear of an approaching train or other on-track equipment; or

(ii) failing to stop before reaching the crossing if the tracks are not clear;

(b) for drivers who are always required to stop, failing to stop before driving onto the crossing;

(c) for all drivers:

(i) failing to have sufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping;

(ii) failing to obey a traffic control device or the directions of an enforcement official at the crossing; or

(iii) failing to negotiate a crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.

(2) Upon receipt of a report of a conviction of any railroad crossing offense or conduct described in subsection (1), the following suspension periods must be imposed:

(a) 60 days upon a first conviction;

(b) 120 days upon a second conviction within a 3-year period; or

(c) 1 year upon a third or subsequent conviction within a 3-year period.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 256, L. 2009.

61-8-814. Probationary driver's license ineligibility. A person whose commercial driver's license or commercial motor vehicle operating privilege is suspended under this part:

(1) is not eligible for a restricted probationary driver's license that would permit operation of a commercial motor vehicle during the period of suspension; and

(2) may not operate a commercial motor vehicle until the period of suspension is completed and the person is otherwise eligible, under state and federal law, to have the commercial driver's license restored or to reapply for a commercial driver's license.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 428, L. 2003.

61-8-815. Employer not to permit operation of commercial motor vehicle in violation of state law or federal regulation — criminal and civil penalties. (1) An employer may not knowingly allow, require, permit, or authorize a person to operate a commercial motor vehicle in the United States:

(a) during any period in which the person's commercial driver's license has been suspended, revoked, or cancelled by a state, the person has lost the privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle in a state, or the person has been disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle;

(b) during any period in which the person has more than one commercial driver's license;

(c) during any period in which the person, the commercial motor vehicle the person is operating, or the motor carrier operation is subject to an out-of-service order; or

(d) in violation of a federal, state, or local law or regulation pertaining to railroad crossings.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor, and a person convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined not less than $25 or more than $500 for the first offense and not less than $25 or more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), an employer who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of not less than $2,750 or more than $11,000.

(b) An employer who violates subsection (1)(d) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000.

(c) The department or the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurred may petition the district court to impose the civil penalty. Venue for an action to collect a civil penalty pursuant to this section is in the county in which the violation occurred.

(d) A civil penalty collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

61-8-816. Commencement of commercial driver's license suspension or disqualification. A suspension or disqualification under this part commences either from the date of receipt by the department of a report of conviction from a court or another licensing jurisdiction or the day following the completion of a previously imposed period of suspension or disqualification, whichever occurs later.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

61-8-817. Notification to other states of traffic violations. The department, upon receipt of a report of a conviction or a violation of any state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, by a person who holds a commercial driver's license from another state or who is licensed in another state, shall report the conviction to the licensing entity in the state where the driver is licensed as follows:

(1) beginning September 30, 2005, within 30 days of conviction; and

(2) beginning September 30, 2008, within 10 days of conviction.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 428, L. 2005.

61-8-818. Permanent revocation of commercial driver's license — felony involving use of commercial motor vehicle for trafficking of persons. If the department receives a conviction report that a person used a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of an offense under Title 45, chapter 5, part 7, or a similar law in another state or in the commission of a felony of trafficking of persons, the department shall revoke the person's commercial driver's license for life and may not reinstate the commercial driver's license for any reason.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 167, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 35, Ch. 167, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Human trafficking, Title 45, ch. 5, part 7.

Part 9
Professional Tow Trucks

Part Cross-References

Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.

61-8-901. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Professional Tow Truck Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1995.

61-8-902. Purpose. The legislature recognizes that:

(1) wrecked, disabled, and abandoned motor vehicles on the public roadways create hazards that imperil lives and property and require expeditious removal;

(2) officers investigating accidents on the public roadways need immediately available towing and recovery vehicles staffed by competent operators and adequately equipped to clear the roadways and remove hazardous obstructions with minimum damage to property;

(3) certain standards and classifications are needed for professional tow trucks and equipment used for towing and recovering wrecked, disabled, and abandoned motor vehicles or other objects creating hazards on the public roadways;

(4) encouragement of a competitive and qualified professional towing industry requires establishment of a uniform and equitable qualification system based on the equipment and the standards provided in 61-8-905 through 61-8-907 and a system for the fair consideration of all qualified tow truck companies; and

(5) the use of nonqualified tow truck companies or private motor vehicles to tow or recover for hire wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles creates additional hazards and, except in limited situations, should be prohibited. However, when a person or tow truck company responds in good faith to life-threatening emergency situations, it should not be liable for civil damages for acts or omissions, other than damages occasioned by gross negligence or by willful or wanton acts or omissions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 283, L. 1995.

61-8-903. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Boom" means an engineered structure that is either mechanically or hydraulically operated and that is capable of lifting and supporting an overhead, vertical load.

(2) "Commercial tow truck operator" or "operator" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or other business entity that owns or operates a commercial tow truck as defined in 61-9-416.

(3) "Department" means the department of justice provided for in 2-15-2001.

(4) "Letter of appointment" means a letter granted by the department pursuant to 61-8-920 that authorizes the holder to participate in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908.

(5) "Local government" means a county, a municipality, or other local board or body that has authority to enact laws relating to traffic.

(6) (a) "Qualified tow truck operator" means a commercial tow truck operator:

(i) that has equipment that:

(A) meets the requirements of 61-8-906, 61-8-907, and 61-9-416; and

(B) has been classified in accordance with 61-8-905;

(ii) that participates in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908;

(iii) that meets the requirements of subsection (6)(b); and

(iv) that has been issued a letter of appointment pursuant to 61-8-920.

(b) (i) If the operator is a firm or other entity, at least 75% of the employees who operate a tow truck must hold a certification from a nationally recognized certification program for tow truck operators or have a minimum of 1 year of experience in the towing business for hire in Montana.

(ii) If the operator is an individual, the individual must hold a certification from a nationally recognized certification program for tow truck operators or have a minimum of 1 year of experience in the towing business for hire in Montana.

(7) "Rotation area" means the base area where a qualified tow truck operator is dispatched and operates.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 2011.

61-8-904. Prohibition — exception. (1) A commercial tow truck operator may not operate for compensation upon the public roadways of this state unless the operator complies with the provisions of 61-8-906(1) and 61-8-907.

(2) A commercial tow truck operator may not participate in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908 unless the operator complies with the provisions of this part.

(3) Except as provided in 61-9-416, the provisions of 61-8-901 through 61-8-908, 61-8-910, and 61-8-920 do not apply to a commercial tow truck operator that does not operate for compensation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 2011.

61-8-905. Classification standards. (1) Commercial tow trucks are divided into the following five classes based on the manufacturer's rating:

(a) Class A tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 4 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(b) Class B tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 8 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 18,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(c) Class C tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 16 tons and must be mounted on a chassis that has a minimum manufacturer's rating of 32,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(d) Class D tow truck equipment includes manufactured rollbacks and car carriers with manufacturer's gross vehicle ratings of 10,000 pounds and over. The rollbacks and car carriers must be mounted on a truck-trailer chassis that, at a minimum, is equal to the minimum gross weight of the rollback or car carrier. Class D also includes any piece of towing equipment without a boom.

(e) Class E includes two or more tow trucks working together with a combined manufacturer's rating of a minimum of 80,000 pounds with access to supportive equipment, such as forklifts, banders, and air bags, for the recovery of rollovers and wrecked, disabled, and abandoned vehicles whose cargo requires special handling. Class E refers to tow truck companies and not to tow truck equipment.

(2) An operator of noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment in use on October 1, 1995, that wishes to participate in the law enforcement rotation system must have its equipment classified by the department within a time period set by the department. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications may not be made.

(3) An operator of new noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment must have its equipment independently certified before participating in the law enforcement rotation system. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications to the equipment must be recertified.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 2003.

61-8-906. Liability insurance — storage requirements. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 61-6-301, a commercial tow truck operator shall continuously provide:

(a) insurance against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for bodily injury or death or damage to property caused by the maintenance or use of a commercial tow truck, as defined in 61-9-416, or occurring on the business premises of a commercial tow truck operator in an amount not less than:

(i) $300,000 for class A tow trucks;

(ii) $500,000 for class B tow trucks; and

(iii) $750,000 for class C tow trucks;

(b) insurance in an amount not less than $20,000 to cover the damage to cargo or other property entrusted to the care of the commercial tow truck operator; and

(c) garage keepers legal liability insurance or on-hook liability insurance in an amount not less than $50,000.

(2) A commercial tow truck operator shall provide proof of the insurance required in subsection (1) to the department.

(3) A qualified tow truck operator shall provide a storage facility, either a fenced lot or a building, that is:

(a) adequate for the secure storage and safekeeping of stored vehicles;

(b) located in a place that is reasonably convenient for public access;

(c) available to public access between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays;

(d) large enough to store all the vehicles towed for law enforcement agencies; and

(e) if a fenced lot, constructed of chain link at least 6 feet high or constructed of materials and in a manner sufficient to deter trespassing or vandalism.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2009.

61-8-907. Inspection — fees — decal. (1) The tow truck equipment of a commercial tow truck operator must have an annual safety inspection. A highway patrol officer, an employee of the department of transportation appointed as a peace officer in accordance with 61-12-201, or an inspector certified by the department shall conduct the inspection and require the commercial tow truck operator to provide proof of compliance with the provisions of 61-8-906.

(2) (a) Upon satisfactory completion of the inspection and verification of the insurance requirements, a decal showing the last inspection date and the expiration date of the insurance coverage must be affixed in a prominent place on the tow truck.

(b) If the commercial tow truck operator is participating in the law enforcement rotation system, the decal must also show the classification of the operator's tow truck equipment.

(3) The department may establish inspection and decal fees that may not exceed the actual costs of the inspection and the decal. The fees for the inspection and decal must be deposited in the highway nonrestricted account provided for in 15-70-125.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

61-8-908. State law enforcement rotation system — letter of appointment — local government rotation system. (1) The department shall establish and maintain an equitable rotation system among qualified tow truck operators that apply to the department in writing to be placed on the system and receive a letter of appointment under 61-8-920. The rotation system:

(a) must be administered by the highway patrol in a manner that will give priority to public safety;

(b) must be based on the classification of equipment as provided in 61-8-905; and

(c) may include only qualified tow truck operators.

(2) Each qualified tow truck operator participating in the rotation system shall have available and show upon the request of a law enforcement officer:

(a) all Montana motor vehicle identification numbers or department of transportation numbers for the operator's tow trucks operating in the rotation system;

(b) the operator's federal tax identification number;

(c) the operator's company phone number and street address; and

(d) the operator's letter of appointment as issued under 61-8-920.

(3) The operator shall display on both sides of each tow truck the operator's business name and location and the numbers required by subsection (2)(a). The information required by this subsection must be plainly seen and able to be read at all times.

(4) Any charges for towing service must be calculated from the operator's business location, as it is assigned on the operator's letter of appointment.

(5) The rotation system is not applicable when the owner or driver of a wrecked or disabled vehicle obstructing a public roadway requests a tow truck operator of the owner's or driver's choice and the operator meets the insurance requirements provided in 61-8-906 and the safety inspection requirements provided in 61-8-907.

(6) (a) (i) The law enforcement officer at the scene of the wreck shall call the qualified tow truck operator that is next on the rotation list if:

(A) a request for a tow truck is not made by the owner or driver;

(B) the requested tow truck cannot respond in a timely manner; or

(C) the law enforcement officer determines that the requested tow truck is unable to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle.

(ii) If the qualified tow truck operator is not classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle, the officer shall call the qualified tow truck operator next on the rotation list that is classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle.

(b) If a qualified tow truck operator classified to handle the wrecked or disabled vehicle is not reasonably available, the law enforcement officer may request other equipment to remove the hazard.

(7) The department shall administer the state law enforcement rotation system. A qualified tow truck operator may examine the rotation system schedule established by the department in order to determine if the system is being administered in an equitable manner.

(8) A qualified tow truck operator gives implied consent to a reasonable inspection during normal business hours of its premises, vehicles, and equipment by the department of transportation, highway patrol, or a local government to ensure compliance with this part.

(9) A local law enforcement agency may adopt and administer a local law enforcement rotation system that complies with the provisions of this part. A tow truck operator desiring to be placed on the local law enforcement rotation system must be a qualified tow truck operator as provided in this part.

(10) The highway patrol or local law enforcement shall provide upon request a record of rotation system calls for all classes of tow trucks.

(11) Complaints about the rotation system must be referred in writing to the complaint resolution committee established in 61-8-912.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 143, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Designation of specific automobile body repair shops prohibited, 33-18-224.

61-8-909. Good faith immunity. A person who renders assistance in an emergency that is life-threatening to the occupant of a wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicle or that is creating an immediate hazard on a public roadway or who renders emergency assistance as directed by a law enforcement officer or other emergency responder at the scene of a motor vehicle accident is immune from damages arising from acts or omissions related to the rendering of assistance unless the damages are occasioned by the gross negligence or by the willful or wanton acts or omissions of the person rendering the assistance.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 283, L. 1995.

61-8-910. Violation — penalty. A commercial tow truck operator that violates a provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to the penalty provided in 61-8-711.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 88, L. 2003.

61-8-911. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt reasonable and necessary rules to administer the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 283, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-8-912. Tow truck complaint resolution committee — membership — responsibilities. (1) The department shall establish a tow truck complaint resolution committee, and the attorney general shall appoint the members. Committee members serve 3-year terms, may serve more than one term, and must include:

(a) two representatives of the tow truck industry, one from the eastern half of the state and one from the western half of the state;

(b) a representative of the commercial motor carrier industry;

(c) a member of the public;

(d) a representative of the insurance industry; and

(e) a representative of the highway patrol.

(2) The committee shall meet as often as necessary, either in person or by teleconference, to review and resolve complaints about tow truck issues, including towing charges, that are submitted in writing to a committee member and to review information submitted to it as provided in this part.

(3) The department shall establish rules to govern the committee's procedure for reviewing and resolving complaints.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 88, L. 2003.

61-8-913. Notice to owner — payment of removal and storage costs — request for reissuance of certificate of title. (1) Within 15 days after the date that a wrecked or disabled vehicle is removed from a public roadway by a qualified tow truck operator at the request of a law enforcement officer under 61-8-908, the qualified tow truck operator shall send a certified letter to the vehicle owner or lienholder, as shown in the department's records, notifying the owner or lienholder that the vehicle has been towed and is being stored by the qualified tow truck operator. The certified letter must be sent return receipt requested and postage prepaid to the owner or lienholder at the latest address shown in the department's records.

(2) The owner or lienholder of the vehicle may not reclaim the vehicle until the owner, the lienholder, or the owner's or lienholder's insurance provider has paid the costs incurred by the qualified tow truck operator in removing and storing the vehicle.

(3) If the removal and storage costs have not been paid within 30 days after the date that the notice provided for in subsection (1) was postmarked, the qualified tow truck operator may request, on a form provided by the department, that the department cancel the vehicle's certificate of title, remove any perfected security interest, and reissue the certificate of title to the qualified tow truck operator. In the request, the qualified tow truck operator shall certify that the notice required in subsection (1) was sent and that the owner or lienholder has not made payment as required in subsection (2). A copy of the notice required in subsection (1) must be attached to the request.

(4) Upon receipt of a valid request as provided in subsection (3), the department shall cancel the certificate of title to the vehicle and reissue the certificate of title to the qualified tow truck operator. The qualified tow truck operator shall pay all required fees on the vehicle. After the department has reissued the certificate of title, the former owner or lienholder has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 176, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 2013.

61-8-914 through 61-8-919 reserved.

61-8-920. Rotation system — letter of appointment — requirements. (1) A commercial tow truck operator may not participate in the law enforcement rotation system provided for in 61-8-908 without a letter of appointment from the department.

(2) The department may assign a letter of appointment to a commercial tow truck operator if the operator meets the following requirements:

(a) Each towing business must be operated independently. One company cannot be dependent on another for any required operation.

(b) If the operator owns more than one towing business, each business must have a different identifiable name, address, and telephone number that is answered at the business location during normal business hours. An after-hours central dispatch center may receive calls for multiple businesses if the dispatch center is capable of acknowledging each individual call by the applicable company name.

(c) The operator shall provide adequate staffing for each business with personnel who are present at the business location to answer all incoming calls and who are able to release impounded vehicles from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for state-recognized holidays. In addition, each business location must be staffed by a sufficient number of drivers for a 24-hour a day operation.

(d) There must be adequate equipment for each company to operate independently. Tow trucks may be used only for the company for which they are registered and within the rotation area for which they are approved by the department unless otherwise specifically provided for by the department.

(e) The operator must have a business location with its own outside entrance, or if a building has one main entrance, the location must have doors clearly marking and separating each business with a sign at the front door and a sign plainly visible from the street indicating the company's name, telephone number, and office hours. Separate businesses in the same rotation area may be housed in one building, but there must be a solid wall from floor to ceiling to separate each business.

(f) Each company shall maintain its own set of required records and books, including but not limited to a vehicle transaction file and billing invoices at its business location. If there is a corporate accountant or bookkeeper for more than one company, all records and files for each company that are required to be maintained at the business location must be maintained separately.

(g) The operator must have impound and storage areas at the business location and in the operator's assigned rotation area that meet the requirements of 61-8-906(3).

(h) The operator shall maintain at least one truck meeting the minimum classification standards set out in 61-8-905.

(3) A qualified tow truck operator may have only one letter of appointment for a business location in a single rotation area. A request for an additional letter of appointment must be for a complete and separate business location that is capable of operating independently within the same or another rotation area and that meets the requirements of subsection (2).

(4) Each letter of appointment must specify the rotation area to which the qualified tow truck operator is assigned.

(5) A commercial tow truck operator may petition the department in writing for a waiver of one or more of the requirements of subsection (2). Except as provided in subsection (6), the department may grant a waiver if it finds that:

(a) the towing service otherwise available within the rotation area is inadequate to meet the needs of the public;

(b) the request has the highway patrol district commander's approval; and

(c) the petition is otherwise reasonable.

(6) In the event a commercial tow truck operator meets all the requirements of this section and receives a letter of appointment in the same rotation area as a qualified tow truck operator that had earlier been granted a waiver pursuant to subsection (5), the department shall rescind the waiver.

(7) A letter of appointment must be issued in the name of the applicant and is not transferable to any other person or business.

(8) A letter of appointment is valid until suspended, superseded, or revoked by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2011.

Part 10
Driving Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

61-8-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise and unless a different meaning plainly is required, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aggravated driving under the influence" means a person is in violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d) and:

(a) the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.16 or more;

(b) the person is under the order of a court or the department to equip any motor vehicle the person operates with an approved ignition interlock device;

(c) the person's driver's license or privilege to drive is suspended, cancelled, or revoked as a result of a prior violation of driving under the influence, including a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state; or

(d) the person refuses to give a breath sample as required in 61-8-1016 and the person's driver's license or privilege to drive was suspended, cancelled, or revoked under the provisions of an implied consent statute.

(2) "Alcoholic beverage" means a compound produced for human consumption as a drink that contains 0.5% or more of alcohol by volume.

(3) "Alcohol concentration" means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath, including as used in 16-6-305, 23-2-535, 45-5-207, 67-1-211, and this title.

(4) "Bus" means a motor vehicle with a manufacturer's rated seating capacity of 11 or more passengers, including the driver.

(5) "Camper" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

(6) "Commercial motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

(7) "Drug" means any substance that when taken into the human body can impair a person's ability to operate a vehicle safely. The term includes the meanings provided in 50-32-101(6), (7), and (14).

(8) "DUI court" means any court that has established a special docket for handling cases involving persons convicted under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008 and that implements a program of incentives and sanctions intended to assist a participant to complete treatment ordered pursuant to 61-8-1009 and to end the participant's criminal behavior associated with the use of alcohol or drugs.

(9) "Highway" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101, including the shoulders of the highway.

(10) "Motor home" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

(11) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.

(12) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means a bottle, can, jar, or other receptacle that contains any amount of an alcoholic beverage and that is open or has a broken seal or the contents of which are partially removed.

(13) "Passenger area" means the area designed to seat the driver and passengers while a motor vehicle is in operation and any area that is readily accessible to the driver or a passenger while the driver or a passenger is seated in the vehicle, including an unlocked glove compartment.

(14) "Under the influence" means that as a result of taking into the body alcohol, drugs, or any combination of alcohol and drugs, a person's ability to safely operate a vehicle has been diminished.

(15) "Vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101, except that the term does not include a bicycle.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1002. Driving under influence. (1) A person commits the offense of driving under the influence if the person drives or is in actual physical control of:

(a) a vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or a combination of alcohol and any drug;

(b) a noncommercial vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.08 or more;

(c) a commercial motor vehicle within this state while the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.04 or more;

(d) a noncommercial vehicle or commercial motor vehicle within this state while the person's tetrahydrocannabinol level, excluding inactive metabolites, as shown by analysis of the person's blood or other bodily substance, is 5 ng/ml or more; or

(e) a vehicle within this state when the person is under 21 years of age at the time of the offense while the person's alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance, is 0.02 or more.

(2) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by any person driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, the concentration of alcohol in the person at the time of a test, as shown by analysis of a sample of the person's blood, breath, or other bodily substance drawn or taken within a reasonable time after the alleged act, gives rise to the following inferences:

(a) if there was at that time an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or less, it may be inferred that the person was not under the influence of alcohol;

(b) if there was at that time an alcohol concentration in excess of 0.04 but less than 0.08, that fact may not give rise to any inference that the person was or was not under the influence of alcohol, but the fact may be considered with other competent evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the person; and

(c) if there was at that time an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, it may be inferred that the person was under the influence of alcohol. The inference is rebuttable.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) do not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing on the issue of whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs.

(4) Each municipality in this state is given authority to enact this section, with the word "state" changed to read "municipality", as an ordinance and is given jurisdiction of the enforcement of the ordinance and the imposition of the fines and penalties provided in the ordinance.

(5) Absolute liability, as provided in 45-2-104, is imposed for a violation of this section.

(6) When the same acts may establish the commission of an offense under subsection (1), a person charged with the conduct may be prosecuted for a violation of another relevant subsection under subsection (1). However, the person may be convicted of only one offense under this section or of a similar offense under previous laws of this state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 723, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 723, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Cross-References

Self-incrimination and double jeopardy, Art. II, sec. 25, Mont. Const.
Municipal traffic and motor vehicle regulation, 7-14-4102, 7-14-4103.
Boats — prohibited operation, 23-2-523.
Boats — alcohol concentration standards, 23-2-535.
Responsibility — intoxicated or drugged condition, 45-2-203.
Negligent vehicular assault, 45-5-205.
Scheduling of dangerous drugs, Title 50, ch. 32, part 2.
Criminal laws limitation, 53-24-106.
Offenses furnishing ground for suspension or revocation of license, 61-5-405.
Definition of ways of this state open to the public, 61-8-101.
Offenses committed by persons under age of 18, 61-8-723.
Habitual traffic offenders, Title 61, ch. 11, part 2.

61-8-1003 through 61-8-1006 reserved.

61-8-1007. Penalty for driving under influence — first through third offenses. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c), a person convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a) shall be punished as follows:

(i) for a first violation, by imprisonment for not less than 24 consecutive hours or more than 6 months and by a fine of not less than $600 or more than $1,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 48 consecutive hours or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $1,200 or more than $2,000;

(ii) for a second violation, by imprisonment for not less than 7 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $1,200 or more than $2,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 14 days or more than 1 year and a fine of not less than $2,400 or more than $4,000; or

(iii) for a third violation, by imprisonment for not less than 30 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $2,500 or more than $5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 60 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000.

(b) If the person has a prior conviction under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as provided in 61-8-1008.

(c) If the person has a prior conviction or pending charge for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, the person shall be punished as provided in subsection (4).

(d) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the person's physical or mental well-being.

(e) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:

(i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court, including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;

(ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if available and if imposed by the court; and

(iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement, the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c), a person convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d) shall be punished as follows:

(i) for a first violation, by imprisonment for not more than 6 months and by a fine of not less than $600 or more than $1,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 6 months and by a fine of not less than $1,200 or more than $2,000;

(ii) for a second violation, by imprisonment for not less than 5 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $1,200 or more than $2,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 10 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $2,400 or more than $4,000; or

(iii) for a third violation, by imprisonment for not less than 30 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $2,500 or more than $5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 60 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000.

(b) If the person has a prior conviction under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as provided in 61-8-1008.

(c) If the person has a prior conviction or pending charge for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, the person shall be punished as provided in subsection (4).

(d) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the person's physical or mental well-being.

(e) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:

(i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court, including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;

(ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if available and if imposed by the court; and

(iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement, the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.

(3) (a) A person convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(e) shall be punished as follows:

(i) Upon a first conviction under this section, a person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500.

(ii) Upon a second conviction under this section, a person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200 or more than $500 and, if the person is 18 years of age or older, by incarceration for not more than 10 days.

(iii) Upon a third or subsequent conviction under this section, a person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $300 or more than $500 and, if the person is 18 years of age or older, by incarceration for not less than 24 consecutive hours or more than 60 days.

(iv) In addition to the punishment provided in this section, regardless of disposition:

(A) the person shall comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency treatment provisions in 61-8-1009 as ordered by the court; and

(B) the department shall suspend the person's driver's license for 90 days upon the first conviction, 6 months upon the second conviction, and 1 year upon the third or subsequent conviction. A restricted or probationary driver's license may not be issued during the suspension period until the person has paid a license reinstatement fee in accordance with 61-2-107 and, if the person was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense, has completed at least 30 days of the suspension period.

(b) A conviction under this section may not be counted as a prior offense or conviction under 61-8-1007, 61-8-1008, and 61-8-1011.

(4) (a) A person convicted of a violation under 61-8-1002 charged as aggravated driving under the influence, as defined in 61-8-1001, shall be punished as follows:

(i) for a first violation, by imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $1,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 4 consecutive days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $2,000;

(ii) for a second violation, by imprisonment for not less than 15 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $2,500, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 45 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $5,000; or

(iii) for a third violation, by imprisonment for not less than 40 consecutive days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 90 consecutive days or more than 1 year and by a fine of $10,000.

(b) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the person's physical or mental well-being.

(c) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:

(i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court, including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;

(ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if available and if imposed by the court; and

(iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement, the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.

(d) If the person has a prior conviction under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as provided in 61-8-1008.

(5) In addition to the punishment provided in this section, regardless of disposition, the person shall comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency treatment provisions in 61-8-1009 as ordered by the court.

(6) A person punished pursuant to this section is subject to mandatory revocation or suspension of the person's driver's license as provided in chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Certification of addiction counselors, Title 37, ch. 35.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Responsibility — intoxicated or drugged condition, 45-2-203.
Form of sentence, Title 46, ch. 18, part 2.
Criminal laws limitation, 53-24-106.
Powers and duties of Department — instructors and courses concerning chemical dependency program, 53-24-204.
Treatment of alcoholics and intoxicated persons, Title 53, ch. 24, part 3.
Driver improvement program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 3.

61-8-1008. Penalty for driving under influence — fourth and subsequent offenses. (1) (a) A person convicted of a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, who has also been convicted under either 45-5-106 or any combination of three or more convictions under 45-5-104, 45-5-205, 45-5-628(1)(e), driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, and the offense under 45-5-104 occurred while the person was operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or any combination of alcohol and any drug, as provided in 61-8-1002(1)(a), is guilty of a felony and shall be punished by:

(i) being sentenced to the department of corrections for a term of not less than 13 months or more than 2 years for placement in either an appropriate correctional facility or a program, followed by a consecutive term of 5 years to the Montana state prison or the Montana women's prison, all of which must be suspended, and a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000; or

(ii) being sentenced to a term of up to 5 years in an appropriate treatment court program, with required completion, and a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000. If sentenced under this alternative, the person may be entitled to a suspended sentence but is not eligible for a deferred imposition of sentence.

(b) Regarding the sentence provided for in subsection (1)(a)(i):

(i) the imposition or execution of the sentence may not be deferred or suspended, and the person is not eligible for parole;

(ii) the program in subsection (1)(a)(i) may be a residential alcohol treatment program approved by the department of corrections;

(iii) following initial placement of a defendant in a residential alcohol treatment program facility, the department of corrections may, at its discretion, place the offender in another facility or program;

(iv) the court shall order that if the person successfully completes a residential alcohol treatment program approved by the department of corrections, the remainder of the 13-month to 2-year term must be served on probation with the conditions that:

(A) the person abide by the standard conditions of probation promulgated by the department of corrections;

(B) a person who is financially able to pay the costs of imprisonment, probation, and alcohol treatment under this section does so;

(C) the person may not frequent an establishment where alcoholic beverages are served;

(D) the person may not consume alcoholic beverages;

(E) the person may not operate a motor vehicle unless authorized by the person's probation officer;

(F) the person enter in and remain in an aftercare treatment program for the entirety of the probationary period;

(G) the person submit to random or routine drug and alcohol testing; and

(H) if the person is permitted to operate a motor vehicle, the vehicle be equipped with an ignition interlock system; and

(v) the sentencing judge may impose on the defendant any other reasonable restrictions or conditions during the period of probation. Reasonable restrictions or conditions may include but are not limited to:

(A) payment of a fine as provided in 46-18-231;

(B) payment of costs as provided in 46-18-232 and 46-18-233;

(C) payment of costs of assigned counsel as provided in 46-8-113;

(D) community service;

(E) any other reasonable restrictions or conditions considered necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of society; or

(F) any combination of the restrictions or conditions listed in subsections (1)(b)(v)(A) through (1)(b)(v)(E).

(2) A person convicted of a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, and who has also been convicted under either 45-5-106 or any combination of four or more prior convictions under 45-5-104, 45-5-205, 45-5-628(1)(e), driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, and the offense under 45-5-104 occurred while the person was operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a dangerous drug, any other drug, or any combination of the three, as provided in 61-8-1002(1)(a), and the person was previously sentenced under subsection (1)(a)(i) or (1)(a)(ii), the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000, and by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not more than 10 years. The person is not eligible for a deferred imposition of sentence.

(3) If a person has previously been convicted and sentenced under subsection (2), the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000 and by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not more than 25 years. The person is not eligible for a deferred imposition of sentence.

(4) If a person who is presently being sentenced has previously been convicted and sentenced under subsection (3) on one or more occasions, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5,000 or more than $10,000 and by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 5 years or more than 25 years. The first 5 years of the sentence may not be suspended.

(5) The provisions of 46-18-203, 46-23-1001 through 46-23-1005, 46-23-1011 through 46-23-1014, and 46-23-1031 apply to a person sentenced under this section.

(6) A person punished pursuant to this section is subject to mandatory revocation or suspension of the person's driver's license as provided in chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 2021.

61-8-1009. Driving under influence — assessment, education, and treatment required. (1) In addition to the punishments provided in 61-8-1007 and 61-8-1008, regardless of disposition, a defendant convicted of a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state shall complete a chemical dependency assessment and:

(a) for a first conviction, except as provided in subsection (8)(b), a chemical dependency education course; and

(b) for a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, except a fourth or subsequent conviction for which the defendant completes a residential alcohol treatment program under 61-8-1008(1)(a)(i), or as required by subsection (8) of this section, chemical dependency treatment.

(2) The sentencing judge may, in the judge's discretion, require the defendant to complete the chemical dependency assessment prior to sentencing the defendant. If the assessment is not ordered or completed before sentencing, the judge shall order the chemical dependency assessment as part of the sentence.

(3) The chemical dependency assessment and the chemical dependency education course must be completed at a treatment program approved by the department of public health and human services and must be conducted by a licensed addiction counselor. Approved programs must be evidence-based programs. The defendant may attend a treatment program of the defendant's choice as long as the treatment services are provided by a licensed addiction counselor. The defendant shall pay the cost of the assessment, the education course, and chemical dependency treatment and may use health insurance to cover the costs when possible.

(4) The assessment must describe the defendant's level of addiction, if any, and contain a recommendation as to education, treatment, or both. The assessment must conform to quality standards required by the department of public health and human services. A defendant who disagrees with the initial assessment may, at the defendant's cost, obtain a second assessment provided by a licensed addiction counselor or a program approved by the department of public health and human services.

(5) The treatment provided to the defendant at a treatment program must be at a level appropriate to the defendant's alcohol or drug problem, or both, as determined by a licensed addiction counselor pursuant to diagnosis and patient placement rules adopted by the department of public health and human services. The rules must include evidence-based treatment programs or courses approved by the department that are likely to reduce recidivism. Upon determination, the court shall order the defendant's appropriate level of treatment. If more than one counselor makes a determination as provided in this subsection, the court shall order an appropriate level of treatment based on the determination of one of the counselors.

(6) Each counselor providing education or treatment shall, at the commencement of the education or treatment, notify the court that the defendant has been enrolled in a chemical dependency education course or treatment program. If the defendant fails to attend the course or treatment program, the counselor shall notify the court of the failure.

(7) A court or counselor may not require attendance at a self-help program other than at an open meeting, as that term is defined by the self-help program. A defendant may voluntarily participate in self-help programs.

(8) (a) Chemical dependency treatment must be ordered for a first-time or second-time offender convicted of a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state upon a finding of moderate or severe alcohol or drug use disorder made by a licensed addiction counselor pursuant to diagnosis and patient placement rules adopted by the department of public health and human services.

(b) If treatment is ordered under subsection (8)(a) for a first-time offender, the offender may not also be required to attend a chemical dependency education course.

(9) (a) On a second or subsequent conviction, the treatment program provided for in subsection (5) must be followed by monthly monitoring for a period of at least 1 year from the date of admission to the program.

(b) If a defendant fails to comply with the monitoring program imposed under subsection (9)(a), the court shall revoke the suspended sentence, if any, impose any remaining portion of the suspended sentence, and may include additional monthly monitoring for up to an additional 1 year.

(10) Notwithstanding 46-18-201(2), whenever a judge suspends a sentence imposed under 61-8-1007 and orders the person to complete chemical dependency treatment under this section, the judge retains jurisdiction to impose any suspended sentence for up to 1 year.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Restoration or renewal of driving privilege, 61-5-208.

61-8-1010. Driving under influence — ignition interlock device — 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program. (1) For a person convicted of a first offense of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under the laws of another state, in addition to the punishments listed in 61-8-1007, the court may, regardless of disposition and if a probationary license is recommended by the court, require the person to comply with the conditions listed in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).

(2) On a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under the laws of another state, or a second or subsequent conviction under 61-5-212 when the reason for the suspension or revocation was that the person was convicted of a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, or the suspension was under 61-8-1016 or a similar law of another state for refusal to take a test for alcohol or drugs requested by a peace officer who believed that the person might be driving under the influence, in addition to the punishments listed in 61-8-1002 and 61-8-1007, the court shall:

(a) require the person to participate in the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program provided for in 44-4-1203 or require the person to participate in a court-approved alcohol or drug detection testing program and to pay the fees associated with the program;

(b) if recommending that a probationary license be issued to the person, restrict the person to driving only a motor vehicle equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device during the probationary period and require the person to pay the reasonable cost of leasing, installing, and maintaining the device; or

(c) order that each motor vehicle owned by the person at the time of the offense be seized and subjected to the forfeiture procedure provided under 61-8-1033. A vehicle used by a person as a common carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is not subject to forfeiture unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the vehicle consented to or was privy to the violation. A vehicle may not be forfeited under this section for any act or omission established by the owner to have been committed or omitted by a person other than the owner while the vehicle was unlawfully in the possession of a person other than the owner in violation of the criminal laws of this state or the United States. Forfeiture of a vehicle encumbered by a security interest is subject to the secured person's interest if the person did not know and could not have reasonably known of the unlawful possession, use, or other act on which the forfeiture is sought.

(3) All court-approved alcohol or drug detection testing programs allowed under this section are required to use the state's data management system pursuant to 44-4-1203.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

61-8-1011. Driving under influence — conviction defined — place of imprisonment — home arrest — exceptions — deferral of sentence not allowed. (1) (a) For the purpose of determining the number of convictions for prior offenses referred to in 61-8-1001, 61-8-1002, 61-8-1007, and 61-8-1008, "conviction" means:

(i) a final conviction, as defined in 45-2-101, in this state, in another state, or on a federally recognized Indian reservation;

(ii) a forfeiture, which has not been vacated, of bail or collateral deposited to secure the defendant's appearance in court in this state, in another state, or on a federally recognized Indian reservation; or

(iii) a conviction for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, or a violation of a similar statute or regulation in another state or on a federally recognized Indian reservation.

(b) An offender is considered to have been previously convicted for the purposes of sentencing if less than 10 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and a previous conviction unless the offense is the offender's third or subsequent offense, in which case all previous convictions must be used for sentencing purposes.

(c) A previous conviction for a violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, or a violation of a similar statute or regulation in another state or on a federally recognized Indian reservation, and as otherwise defined in subsection (1)(a) may be counted for the purposes of determining the number of a subsequent conviction for a violation of driving under the influence under 61-8-1002.

(d) A previous conviction for a violation of 45-5-104 for which the offense under 45-5-104 occurred while the person was operating a vehicle in violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, and a previous conviction for a violation of 45-5-205 or 45-5-628(1)(e) may also be counted for the purposes of determining the number of a subsequent conviction for a violation of driving under the influence under 61-8-1002.

(2) Except as provided in 61-8-1008, the court may order that a term of imprisonment imposed under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008 be served in another facility made available by the county and approved by the sentencing court. The defendant, if financially able, shall bear the expense of the imprisonment in the facility. The court may impose restrictions on the defendant's ability to leave the premises of the facility and may require that the defendant follow the rules of the facility. The facility may be, but is not required to be, a community-based prerelease center as provided for in 53-1-203. The prerelease center may accept or reject a defendant referred by the sentencing court.

(3) Subject to the limitations set forth in 61-8-1007 concerning minimum periods of imprisonment, the court may order that a term of imprisonment imposed under 61-8-1007 be served by imprisonment under home arrest, as provided in Title 46, chapter 18, part 10.

(4) A court may not defer imposition of sentence under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008.

(5) The provisions of 61-2-107, 61-5-205(2), and 61-5-208(2), relating to suspension of driver's licenses and later reinstatement of driving privileges, apply to any conviction under 61-8-1007 for a violation of 61-8-1002.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1012 through 61-8-1015 reserved.

61-8-1016. Implied consent — blood or breath tests for alcohol, blood or oral fluid for drugs, or testing for both — alcohol and drugs using recognized methods for each — refusal to submit to test — administrative license suspension. (1) (a) A person who operates or is in actual physical control of a vehicle or commercial motor vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public is considered to have given consent to a test or tests of the person's blood or breath for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol or blood or oral fluid for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of drugs in the person's body.

(b) The tests in subsection (1)(a) include but are not limited to a preliminary alcohol screening test of the person's breath for the purpose of estimating the person's alcohol concentration.

(c) A preliminary alcohol screening test may not be conducted or requested under this section unless both the peace officer and the instrument used to conduct the test have been certified by the department pursuant to rules adopted under the authority of 61-8-1019(5).

(d) The person's obligation to submit to a test in subsection (1)(a) is not satisfied by the person submitting to a preliminary alcohol screening test pursuant to this section.

(2) (a) The test or tests must be administered at the direction of a peace officer when:

(i) the peace officer has particularized suspicion to believe that the person has been driving or has been in actual physical control of a vehicle upon ways of this state open to the public while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two and the person has been detained for a violation of driving under the influence as provided in 61-8-1002 or an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001;

(ii) the person is under the age of 21 and the peace officer has particularized suspicion to believe that the person has been driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle in violation of 61-8-1002(1)(e); or

(iii) the peace officer has probable cause to believe that the person was driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle or commercial motor vehicle:

(A) in violation of driving under the influence, as provided in 61-8-1002, and the person has been placed under arrest;

(B) in violation of driving under the influence as provided in 61-8-1002, and the person has been involved in a motor vehicle crash or collision resulting in property damage;

(C) and the person has been involved in a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101, or death; or

(D) in violation of driving under the influence as provided in 61-8-1002 and meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001.

(b) A peace officer may designate which test or tests are administered.

(c) The peace officer shall inform the person of the right to refuse the test and that the refusal to submit to the test will result in the suspension for up to 1 year of that person's driver's license.

(d) A hearing as provided for in 61-8-1017 must be available. The issues in the hearing must be limited to determining whether a peace officer had a particularized suspicion that the person was in violation of 61-8-1002 or an offense meeting the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, and whether the person refused to submit to the test.

(e) If a person refuses a preliminary alcohol screening test and another test during the same incident, the department may not consider each a separate refusal for purposes of suspension of the person's driver's license.

(3) A person who is unconscious or who is otherwise in a condition rendering the person incapable of refusal is considered not to have withdrawn the consent requested in subsection (1).

(4) (a) If an arrested person refuses to submit to one or more tests requested and designated by the peace officer, the refused test or tests may not be given unless the person has refused to provide a breath, blood, urine, or other bodily substance in a prior investigation in this state or under a substantially similar statute in another jurisdiction or the arrested person has a prior conviction or pending offense for a violation of 45-5-104, 45-5-106, 45-5-205, or driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or a similar statute in another jurisdiction.

(b) On the person's refusal to provide the breath, blood, urine, oral fluid, or other bodily substance requested by the peace officer pursuant to subsection (1) and this subsection (4) may apply for a search warrant to be issued pursuant to 46-5-224 to collect a sample of the person's blood or oral fluid for testing.

(c) (i) On the person's refusal to provide a breath, blood, urine, oral fluid, or other bodily substance, the peace officer shall, on behalf of the department, immediately seize the person's driver's license. The peace officer shall immediately forward the license to the department, along with a report certified under penalty of law stating which of the conditions set forth in subsection (2)(a) provides the basis for the testing request and confirming that the person refused to submit to one or more tests requested and designated by the peace officer. Upon receipt of the report, the department shall suspend the license for the period provided in 61-8-1032.

(ii) Upon seizure of a driver's license, the peace officer shall issue, on behalf of the department, a temporary driving permit, which is effective 12 hours after issuance and is valid for 5 days following the date of issuance, and shall provide the driver with written notice of the license suspension and the right to a hearing as provided in 61-8-1017.

(iii) A nonresident driver's license seized under this section must be sent by the department to the licensing authority of the nonresident's home state with a report of the nonresident's refusal to submit to one or more tests.

(5) This section does not apply to tests, samples, and analyses of blood, breath, or urine used for purposes of medical treatment or care of an injured motorist, related to a lawful seizure for a suspected violation of an offense not in this part, or performed pursuant to a search warrant.

(6) This section does not prohibit the release of information obtained from tests, samples, and analyses of blood, breath, or urine for law enforcement purposes as provided in 46-4-301 and 61-8-1019(6).

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 151, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

License reinstatement fee to fund county drinking and driving prevention programs, 61-2-107.
Authority of Department of Justice to suspend license or driving privilege, 61-5-206.
Definition of ways of this state open to the public, 61-8-101.

61-8-1017. Right of appeal to court. (1) Within 30 days after notice of the right to a hearing has been given by a peace officer, a person may file a petition to challenge the license suspension or revocation in the district court in the county where the arrest was made.

(2) The court has jurisdiction and shall set the matter for hearing. The court shall give at least 10 days' written notice of the hearing to the county attorney of the county where the arrest was made and to the city attorney if the incident leading to the suspension or revocation resulted in a charge filed in a city or municipal court. The county attorney or city attorney may represent the state. If the county attorney and the city attorney cannot agree on who will represent the state, the county attorney shall represent the state.

(3) Upon request of the petitioner, the court may order the department to return the seized license or issue a stay of the suspension or revocation action pending the hearing.

(4) The court shall take testimony, examine the facts of the case, and determine whether the petitioner is entitled to a license or whether the petitioner's license is subject to suspension or revocation based on no other issues than:

(a) whether a peace officer had a basis for requesting a test or tests as set forth in 61-8-1016, and

(b) whether the person refused to submit to one or more tests designated by the peace officer.

(5) This section does not grant a right of appeal to a state court if a driver's license is initially seized, suspended, or revoked pursuant to a tribal law or regulation that requires alcohol or drug testing of motor vehicle operators.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 498, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.
County Attorney — duties related to state matters, 7-4-2716.
Definition of ways of this state open to the public, 61-8-101.

61-8-1018. Evidence admissible — conditions of admissibility. (1) Upon the trial of a criminal action or other proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by a person in violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002, an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-1001, a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, or 61-8-805:

(a) evidence of any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs in the person at the time of a test, as shown by an analysis of the person's blood, breath, or oral fluid is admissible. A positive test result does not, in itself, prove that the person was under the influence of a drug or drugs at the time the person was in control of a vehicle. A person may not be convicted of a violation of 61-8-1002(1)(a) based on the presence of a drug or drugs in the person unless some other competent evidence exists that tends to establish that the person was under the influence of a drug or drugs while driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle within this state.

(b) a report of the facts and results of one or more tests of a person's blood, breath, or oral fluid is admissible in evidence if:

(i) a breath test, oral fluid screening test, or preliminary alcohol screening test was performed by a person certified by the forensic sciences division of the department to administer the test; or

(ii) a blood sample was analyzed in a laboratory operated or certified by the department or in a laboratory exempt from certification under the rules of the department and the blood was withdrawn from the person by a person competent to do so under 61-8-1019(1); and

(c) a report of the facts and results of a physical, psychomotor, or physiological assessment of a person is admissible in evidence if it was made by a person trained by the department or by a person who has received training recognized by the department.

(2) If the person under arrest refused to submit to one or more tests under 61-8-1016, whether or not a sample was subsequently collected for any purpose, proof of refusal is admissible in any criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle upon the ways of this state open to the public while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs. The trier of fact may infer from the refusal that the person was under the influence. The inference is rebuttable.

(3) The provisions of this part do not limit the introduction of any other competent evidence bearing on the question of whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 151, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Responsibility — intoxicated or drugged condition, 45-2-203.
Definition of ways of this state open to the public, 61-8-101.

61-8-1019. Administration of tests. (1) Only a licensed physician, registered nurse, or other qualified person acting under the supervision and direction of a physician or registered nurse may, at the request of a peace officer, withdraw blood for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol, drugs, or any combination of alcohol and drugs in the person. This limitation does not apply to the sampling of breath or oral fluid.

(2) In addition to any test administered at the direction of a peace officer, a person may request that an independent blood sample be drawn by a physician or registered nurse for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol, drugs, or any combination of alcohol and drugs in the person. The peace officer may not unreasonably impede the person's right to obtain an independent blood test. The peace officer may but has no duty to transport the person to a medical facility or otherwise assist the person in obtaining the test. The cost of an independent blood test is the sole responsibility of the person requesting the test. The failure or inability to obtain an independent test by a person does not preclude the admissibility in evidence of any test given at the direction of a peace officer.

(3) Upon the request of the person tested, full information concerning any test given at the direction of the peace officer must be made available to the person or the person's attorney.

(4) A physician, registered nurse, or other qualified person acting under the supervision and direction of a physician or registered nurse does not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the proper administering of a blood test when requested in writing by a peace officer to administer a test.

(5) The department in cooperation with any appropriate agency shall adopt uniform rules for the giving of tests and may require certification of training to administer the tests as considered necessary.

(6) If a peace officer has probable cause to believe that a person has violated 61-8-1002, meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence as defined in 61-8-1001, or has violated 61-8-805 and a sample of blood, breath, oral fluid, urine, or other bodily substance is

taken from that person for any reason, a portion of that sample sufficient for analysis must be provided to a peace officer if requested for law enforcement purposes and upon issuance of a subpoena as provided in 46-4-301.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 151, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Boats — administration of alcohol concentration tests, 23-2-535.
Licensing of physicians, Title 37, ch. 3, part 3.
Licensing of nurses, Title 37, ch. 8, part 4.
Division of Forensic Sciences, Title 44, ch. 3, part 1.

61-8-1020 through 61-8-1023 reserved.

61-8-1024. Ignition interlock device — assisting in starting and operating — circumventing — penalty. (1) It is unlawful for a person who is subject to a restriction under 61-8-1010 to operate a vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock device.

(2) A person may not knowingly assist a person who is restricted to the use of an ignition interlock device to start and operate the restricted person's vehicle.

(3) A person may not knowingly circumvent the operation of an ignition interlock device.

(4) A person convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

(5) This section does not apply if:

(a) the starting of a motor vehicle or the request to start a motor vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device is done for the purpose of safety or mechanical repair of the device or the vehicle; and

(b) the person subject to the restriction does not operate the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1025. Department rules regarding ignition interlock devices — ignition interlock device provider requirements. (1) The department shall adopt rules providing for the approval of ignition interlock devices and the installation, calibration, repair, and removal of approved devices.

(2) The department's rules must be based on federal standards issued for similar devices.

(3) An ignition interlock device that is approved by the department must also:

(a) be designed so it does not impede safe operation of the vehicle;

(b) correlate well with the level established for alcohol impairment;

(c) work accurately and reliably in an unsupervised environment and under extreme weather conditions;

(d) require a deep lung breath sample or use an equally accurate measure of blood alcohol concentration equivalence;

(e) resist tampering and show evidence of tampering if it is attempted;

(f) be difficult to circumvent;

(g) minimize inconvenience of a sober user;

(h) operate reliably over the range of automobile environments and in connection with various manufacturing standards; and

(i) be manufactured by a person who is adequately insured for product liability.

(4) An ignition interlock device provider shall include in any lease agreement for an ignition interlock device a warning that a person who knowingly tampers with, circumvents, or otherwise misuses the device is subject to criminal prosecution.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1026. Unlawful possession of open alcoholic beverage container in motor vehicle on highway. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person commits the offense of unlawful possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in or on a motor vehicle if the person knowingly possesses an open alcoholic beverage container within the passenger area of a motor vehicle on a highway.

(2) This section does not apply to an open alcoholic beverage container:

(a) in a locked glove compartment or storage compartment;

(b) in a motor vehicle trunk or luggage compartment or rack, or in a truck bed or cargo compartment;

(c) behind the last upright seat of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk;

(d) in a closed container in the area of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk and that is not normally occupied by the driver or a passenger; or

(e) in the immediate possession of a passenger:

(i) of a bus, taxi, or limousine that is used for the transportation of persons for compensation and that includes the provision of a hired driver; or

(ii) in the living quarters of a camper, travel trailer, or motor home.

(3) (a) A person convicted of the offense of unlawful possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle shall be fined an amount not to exceed $100.

(b) A violation of this section is not a criminal offense within the meaning of 3-1-317, 3-1-318, 45-2-101, 46-18-236, 61-8-104, and 61-8-711 and may not be recorded or charged against a driver's record, and an insurance company may not hold a violation of this section against the insured or increase premiums because of the violation. The surcharges provided for in 3-1-317, 3-1-318, and 46-18-236 may not be imposed for a violation of this section.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1027. Unlawful possession of marijuana, marijuana products, or marijuana paraphernalia in motor vehicle on highway. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person commits the offense of unlawful possession of marijuana, marijuana products, or marijuana paraphernalia in a motor vehicle if the person knowingly possesses marijuana, marijuana products, or marijuana paraphernalia, as those terms are defined in 16-12-102, within the passenger area of a motor vehicle on a highway.

(2) This section does not apply to marijuana, marijuana products, or marijuana paraphernalia:

(a) purchased from a dispensary and that remains in its unopened, original packaging;

(b) in a locked glove compartment or storage compartment;

(c) in a motor vehicle trunk or luggage compartment or in a truck bed or cargo compartment;

(d) behind the last upright seat of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk; or

(e) in a closed container in the area of a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk and that is not normally occupied by the driver or a passenger.

(3) (a) A person convicted of the offense of unlawful possession of marijuana, marijuana products, or marijuana paraphernalia in a motor vehicle shall be fined an amount not to exceed $100.

(b) A violation of this section is not a criminal offense within the meaning of 3-1-317, 3-1-318, 45-2-101, 46-18-236, 61-8-104, or 61-8-711 and may not be recorded or charged against a driver's record, and an insurance company may not hold a violation of this section against the insured or increase premiums because of the violation. The surcharges provided for in 3-1-317, 3-1-318, and 46-18-236 may not be imposed for a violation of this section.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 576, L. 2021.

61-8-1028 through 61-8-1030 reserved.

61-8-1031. Suspension of imprisonment sentence for DUI court participation. (1) If a person participates in a DUI court, the court may, at the court's discretion, suspend all or a portion of an imprisonment sentence under 61-8-1007, except for the mandatory minimum imprisonment term.

(2) If a person participating in a DUI court fails to comply with the conditions imposed by the DUI court, the court shall revoke the suspended imprisonment sentence and any sentence subsequently imposed must commence from the effective date of the revocation.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

61-8-1032. Mandatory suspension of license following certain implied consent action. (1) The department shall suspend an individual's driver license if the department receives a report for an implied consent violation from law enforcement or another reporting jurisdiction that, pursuant to 61-8-1016, an individual has refused a test or tests of the person's blood, breath, oral fluid, urine, or other bodily substance for determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol or drugs in the person's body.

(2) (a) Except as permitted by law, a person whose license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways has been suspended may not have the license or privilege renewed or restored until the revocation or suspension duration has been completed.

(b) The department shall apply the appropriate sanction to the driver based on the reported conviction and prior offenses.

(c) The driver shall pay all reinstatement and administrative fees owed to the department before a driver's license or privilege to drive is restored.

(d) The duration of the suspension commences from the date of violation.

(e) If a person refuses tests for the same incident, the department may not consider each a separate refusal for purposes of suspension.

(f) The department may not issue a probationary license during the suspension issued under this part.

(3) (a) A person who has an implied consent violation shall pay the department an administrative fee of $300, which must be deposited in the state special revenue account established pursuant to subsection (3)(b).

(b) There is a blood-draw search warrant processing account in the state special revenue fund established pursuant to 17-2-102(1)(b). Money provided to the department of justice pursuant to this subsection (3) must be deposited in the account and may be used only for providing forensic analysis of a driver's blood or breath to determine the presence of alcohol or drugs.

(4) (a) Upon receiving a report of an implied consent violation, the department shall:

(i) for a first violation, suspend the driver's license or driving privilege for 6 months with no provision for a restricted probationary license; or

(ii) for a second or subsequent violation within 5 years of a previous refusal, as determined from the records of the department, suspend the driver's license or driving privilege for 1 year with no provision for a restricted probationary license.

(b) If a person who refuses to submit to one or more tests under this section is the holder of a commercial driver's license, in addition to any action taken against the driver's noncommercial driving privileges, the department shall:

(i) upon a first refusal, suspend the person's commercial driver's license for 1 year; and

(ii) upon a second or subsequent refusal, suspend the person's commercial driver's license for life, subject to department rules adopted to implement federal rules allowing for license reinstatement, if the person is otherwise eligible, upon completion of a minimum suspension period of 10 years. If the person has a prior conviction of a major offense listed in 61-8-802(2) arising from a separate incident, the conviction has the same effect as a previous testing refusal.

(5) A nonresident driver's license seized under this section must be sent by the department to the licensing authority of the nonresident's home state with a report of the nonresident's refusal to submit to one or more tests.

(6) The department may recognize the seizure of a license of a tribal member by a peace officer acting under the authority of a tribal government or an order issued by a tribal court suspending, revoking, or reinstating a license or adjudicating a license seizure if the actions are conducted pursuant to tribal law or regulation requiring alcohol or drug testing of motor vehicle operators and the conduct giving rise to the actions occurred within the exterior boundaries of a federally recognized Indian reservation in this state. Action by the department under this subsection is not reviewable under 61-8-1017.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 151, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

61-8-1033. Forfeiture procedure. (1) A motor vehicle forfeited under 61-8-1010 must be seized by the arresting agency within 10 days after the conviction and disposed of as provided in Title 44, chapter 12, part 2. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of Title 44, chapter 12, part 2, apply to the extent applicable.

(2) Forfeiture proceedings under 44-12-207 through 44-12-211 must be instituted by the arresting agency within 20 days after the seizure of the motor vehicle.

(3) (a) For purposes of 44-12-213, the proceeds of the sale of the motor vehicle must be distributed first to the holders of security interests who have presented proper proof of their claims, up to the amount of the interests or the amount received from the sale, whichever is less, and the remainder to the general fund of the arresting agency.

(b) A holder of a security interest may petition the sentencing court for transfer of title to the motor vehicle to the holder of the security interest if the secured interest is equal to or greater than the estimated value of the motor vehicle.

(4) Actions the court may take under 44-12-212(3) to protect the rights of innocent persons include return of the motor vehicle without a sale to an owner who is unable to present an adequate defense under this section but is found by the court to be without fault.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 498, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 9
VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

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Chapter Cross-References

Motor carriers safety — enforcement by highway patrol, 44-1-1005.

Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact, Title 61, ch. 2, part 2.

Joint enforcement of motor carrier safety standards by highway patrol and Department of Transportation, 61-10-141.

Part 1
General Provisions

61-9-101. Application — exceptions. (1) The provisions of this chapter relating to the operation of vehicles refer exclusively to the operation of vehicles upon highways except as provided in subsection (4) or where a different place is specifically referred to in a given section.

(2) The operation of motor vehicles directly across the public roads and highways of this state, especially as required in the transportation of natural resource products, including agricultural products and livestock, may not be considered to be the operation of the vehicles on the public roads and highways of this state. The crossings must be adequately marked with warning signs or devices relating to stopping before entry and to restoration of any damage, as may reasonably be prescribed by the state or local agency in control of safety of operation of the public highway involved.

(3) If a provision of this chapter conflicts with federal laws or regulations governing motor vehicle equipment standards, the applicable federal law or regulation supersedes.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b) and subject to subsection (4)(c), the provisions of this chapter apply to the operation and equipping of a motorcycle or quadricycle only when the motorcycle or quadricycle is being operated on a paved highway. A person operating a motorcycle or quadricycle on an unpaved highway shall operate the motorcycle or quadricycle in a reasonable and prudent manner.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (4)(c), the requirements of 61-9-417 and 61-9-418(2)(c) apply to the operation of a motorcycle or quadricycle at all times specified in those sections.

(c) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the operation and equipping of a quadricycle that is being operated for agricultural purposes on an unpaved highway or on a paved highway that is not an interstate highway as defined in 60-1-103.

History: (1)En. Sec. 22, Ch. 263, L. 1955; Sec. 32-2124, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1959; Sec. 32-2124.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2124(part), 32-2124.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 434, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Livestock on highways — flagger escorts, 60-7-204.

Highway defined, 61-1-101.

Traffic safety program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 1.

Traffic regulation — application — exceptions, 61-8-101.

61-9-102. Uniformity of interpretation — definitions. (1) This chapter must be interpreted and construed in order to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

(2) As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Authorized emergency vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-8-102.

(b) "Emergency service vehicle" means an emergency service vehicle of a state, county, or municipal department or a public service vehicle, commercial tow truck, or commercial road service truck, which by the nature of its operation causes a vehicular traffic hazard.

(c) "Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is commonly used or intended for the purpose of producing an explosion and that contains any oxidizing and combustive units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities, or packing that an ignition by fire, friction, concussion, percussion, or detonator of any part of the compound or mixture may cause a sudden generation of highly heated gases so that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects or of destroying life or limb.

(d) "Farm tractor" means a motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

(e) "Police vehicle" has the meaning as provided in 61-8-102.

(f) "Right-of-way" has the meaning provided in 61-8-102.

History: **En. Sec. 155, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-158; amd. Sec. 212, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-9-103. Provisions uniform throughout state — power of local authorities. (1) The provisions of this chapter must be applicable and uniform throughout this state and in all political subdivisions and municipalities in this state, and a local authority may not enact or enforce any ordinance, rule, or regulation in conflict with the provisions of this chapter unless expressly authorized in this chapter. Local authorities may adopt additional traffic regulations that are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) As used in this section "local authorities" has the meaning provided in 61-8-102.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2130; amd. Sec. 213, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Self-government powers, Art. XI, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Municipal traffic regulations, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.

61-9-104. Required obedience to traffic laws. It is unlawful and, unless otherwise declared in this chapter with respect to particular offenses, it is a misdemeanor punishable as provided in 61-9-511 for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2125; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 40, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-9-105. Obedience to peace officers, highway patrol officers, and public safety workers. A person may not willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order or direction of a peace officer, highway patrol officer, or public safety worker pertaining to the use of the highways by traffic. For purposes of this section, "public safety worker" means a person who is authorized to provide assistance at the scene of an incident that requires traffic control and who is either a member of a paid or volunteer fire department, an emergency medical service provider, a member of a search and rescue team, or a civilian accident investigator appointed by a law enforcement agency.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2126; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Obstructing peace officer, 45-7-302.
Obstructing justice, 45-7-303.
Obedience to police officers and highway patrol officers, 61-8-105.

61-9-106. Responsibility of public officers and employees. (1) The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, or town, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, except as provided in this section and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) Unless specifically made applicable, the provisions of this chapter except those contained in part 5 of chapter 8 shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2127.**

Cross-References

Public-owned vehicles exempt from license or registration fees, 61-3-321.

61-9-107. Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles. Every person driving an animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2129.**

Cross-References

Vehicle defined, 61-1-101.

Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles, 61-8-108.

61-9-108. Rights of owners of real property not affected — when. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the owner of real property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel by permission of the owner from prohibiting such use or from requiring other or different or additional conditions than those specified in this chapter, or otherwise regulating such use as may seem best to such owner.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2132.

Cross-References

Private road or driveway defined, 61-8-102.

Rights of owners of real property not affected — when, 61-8-109.

61-9-109. Driving vehicle in unsafe condition prohibited — applicability of chapter. (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or permit to be driven on a highway a vehicle or combination of vehicles that:

(a) is in such unsafe condition as to endanger a person;

(b) is not equipped with lamps and other equipment as required in this chapter; or

(c) is equipped in a manner in violation of this chapter.

(2) It is a misdemeanor for a person to perform an act forbidden or fail to perform an act required under this chapter.

(3) The use of additional parts and accessories on a vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter is not prohibited.

(4) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors except as made applicable in this chapter.

(5) All lamps and equipment required by this chapter must be maintained in proper working order and adjustment at all times.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b) and subject to subsection (6)(c), the provisions of this chapter apply to the operation of a motorcycle or quadricycle only when the motorcycle or quadricycle is being operated on a paved highway. A person operating a motorcycle or quadricycle on an unpaved highway shall operate the motorcycle or quadricycle in a reasonable and prudent manner.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (6)(c), the requirements of 61-9-417 and 61-9-418(2)(c) apply to the operation of a motorcycle or quadricycle at all times specified in those sections.

(c) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the operation and equipping of a quadricycle that is being operated for agricultural purposes on an unpaved highway or on a paved highway that is not an interstate highway as defined in 60-1-103.

History: En. Sec. 111, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-114; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 434, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Motor carriers safety — enforcement by highway patrol, 44-1-1005.

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.

Farm tractor defined, 61-9-102.

Part 2
Lighting Equipment

Part Cross-References

Prohibited operation of special lighting equipment on school buses, 61-8-352.

61-9-201. When lighted lamps are required. Every vehicle upon a highway within this state at any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and at any other time when due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet ahead shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices as hereinafter respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles.

History: En. Sec. 112, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-115.

Cross-References

Highway defined, 61-1-101.

Special speed limitations on trucks, truck tractors, motor-driven cycles, and vehicles towing housetrailers, 61-8-312.

Riding on motorcycles — lights on at all times, 61-8-359.

61-9-202. Visibility distance and mounted height of lamps. (1) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, said provisions shall apply during the times stated in 61-9-201 in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level, unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.

(2) Whenever requirement is hereinafter declared as to the mounted height of lamps or devices it shall mean from the center of such lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load.

History: En. Sec. 113, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-116.

61-9-203. Headlamps on motor vehicles. (1) A motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle must be equipped with at least two headlamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, that comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in this chapter.

(2) A motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle must be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps that comply with the requirements and limitations of this chapter. If a motorcycle is registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item, it need not be equipped with headlamps; however, if it is not equipped with headlamps, it may not be operated upon a highway or street from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or if persons and vehicles are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet. A motorcycle may be equipped with a means of modulating the high beam of its headlamps between high and low beam at a rate of 200 to 280 flashes a minute; however, an operator may not modulate the headlamps at that rate during periods when headlamps are required to be lighted by 61-9-201.

(3) A headlamp upon a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, quadricycle, and motor-driven cycle, must be located at a height, measured from the center of the headlamp, of not more than 54 inches or less than 22 inches, to be measured as provided in 61-9-202(2).

(4) When headlamps are required to be lighted by 61-9-201, a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway with headlamps that are composed of, covered by, or treated with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component that obscures the headlamps or diminishes the distance of visibility required by this section.

(5) This section does not prohibit the operation or sale of a motor vehicle the headlamps of which are composed of, covered by, or treated with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component with which the vehicle was sold or could have been equipped for sale when new as standard or optional equipment in compliance with federal statute or regulation governing the sale at the time of manufacture.

History: En. Sec. 114, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-117; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 345, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.

Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.

Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.

Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

Riding on motorcycles, 61-8-359.

61-9-204. Taillamps. (1) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer and any other vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning taillamp mounted on the rear that emits a red light plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that in the case of a combination of vehicles, only the taillamp on the rearmost vehicle need actually be seen from the distance specified. The vehicles mentioned in this subsection, other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or truck tractor, registered in this state and manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1956, must be equipped with at least two properly functioning taillamps, with at least one mounted on each side of the rear of the vehicle, that emit a red light plainly visible from a distance of 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

(2) A taillamp upon a vehicle must be located at a height of not more than 72 inches or less than 15 inches.

(3) Either a taillamp or a separate lamp must illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of 50 feet to the rear. A taillamp or taillamps, together with a separate lamp for illuminating the rear registration plate, must be lighted whenever the headlamps are lighted.

(4) Taillamps are not required on a motorcycle that is registered under 61-3-411 as a collector's item, but the motorcycle may not be operated on a highway or street from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or when persons and vehicles are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet unless it is equipped with the required taillamps.

(5) A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a highway with taillamps that are covered by a lens or a plastic cover or with a tinted or colored material, substance, system, or component placed on or in front of rear lamps, taillamps, license plate lamps, or rear lamp combinations that obscures the taillamps or diminishes the distance of visibility required by this section.

(6) (a) A custom vehicle or street rod may use a blue dot taillight, as defined in subsection (6)(b), as a stop lamp, a rear signal lamp, or a rear reflector.

(b) "Blue dot taillight" means a red lamp installed in the rear of a motor vehicle containing a blue or purple insert that is not more than 1 inch in diameter.

History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-118; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 345, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 458, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 413, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Standard license plates, 61-3-332.
Riding on motorcycles, 61-8-359.

61-9-205. New motor vehicles to be equipped with reflectors. (1) Every new motor vehicle hereafter sold and operated upon a highway, other than a truck tractor, shall carry on the rear, either as a part of the taillamps or separately, two red reflectors, except that every motorcycle, quadricycle, and motor-driven cycle shall carry at least one reflector meeting the requirements of this section, and except that vehicles of the type mentioned in 61-9-208 shall be equipped with reflectors as required in those sections applicable thereto.

(2) Every such reflector shall be mounted on the vehicle at a height not less than 15 inches or more than 60 inches measured as set forth in 61-9-202(2) and shall be of such size and characteristics and so mounted as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 feet to 50 feet from such vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps, except that visibility from a greater distance may be required of reflectors on certain types of vehicles.

History: En. Sec. 116, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-119; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-206. Stop lamps — when required. (1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle in this state or drive a vehicle on the highways unless it is equipped with at least two properly functioning stop lamps. A vehicle manufactured before January 1, 1956, and all motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles must be equipped with at least one properly functioning stop lamp.

(2) The stop lamp or lamps on the rear of a vehicle must display a red light that is actuated upon application of the service (foot) brake and, in a vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1964, must be visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. In a vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1964, the stop lamp or lamps must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. The stop lamp may be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps.

(3) A stop lamp may not project a glaring light.

History: En. Sec. 117, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-120; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-207. Application of succeeding sections. Sections 61-9-208 through 61-9-229 apply as stated in those sections to vehicles of the type enumerated in those sections when operated upon a highway. The vehicles must be equipped as required and all lamp equipment required must be lighted at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 except that clearance and side marker lamps need not be lighted on a vehicle when operated within a municipality when there is sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 1,000 feet.

History: En. Sec. 118, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-121; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-208. Additional equipment required on certain vehicles. In addition to other equipment required in this chapter, the following vehicles must be equipped as stated in this section under the conditions stated in 61-9-207:

(1) On a bus or truck there must be on the rear, two reflectors, one at each side.

(2) On a bus or truck 80 inches or more in overall width, in addition to the requirements in subsection (1):

(a) on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side;

(b) on the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side;

(c) on each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;

(d) on each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear.

(3) On a truck tractor, on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side.

(4) On a trailer or semitrailer having a gross weight in excess of 3,000 pounds:

(a) on the front, two clearance lamps, one at each side;

(b) on each side, two side marker lamps, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;

(c) on each side, two reflectors, one at or near the front and one at or near the rear;

(d) on the rear, two clearance lamps, one at each side, also two reflectors, one at each side.

(5) On a pole trailer in excess of 3,000 pounds gross weight:

(a) on each side, one side marker lamp and one clearance lamp that may be in combination, to show to the front, side, and rear; and

(b) on the rear of the pole trailer or load, two reflectors, one at each side.

(6) On a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer weighing 3,000 pounds or less:

(a) on the front, a steel safety chain or cable that must be securely fastened to the towing unit with the minimum diameter of any portion of the chains or cables being one-fourth of an inch. A safety chain or cable may not be connected to the ball but must be connected to the hitch or other frame member of the towing vehicle to prevent the drawbar from dropping to the ground if the ball, socket, or coupler fails;

(b) on the rear, two reflectors and two stoplights, one on each side.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-122(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-209. Color of clearance lamps, side marker lamps, reflectors, and backup lamps. (1) Front clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the front or on the side near the front of a vehicle must display or reflect an amber color.

(2) Rear clearance lamps and those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the rear or on the sides near the rear of a vehicle must display or reflect a red color.

(3) All lighting devices, reflectors, and stoplights mounted on the rear of a vehicle must display or reflect a red color, except:

(a) the signal devices, as defined in 61-9-218;

(b) the light illuminating the license plate that must be a white lamp; and

(c) the light emitted by a backup lamp that must be white.

History: En. Sec. 120, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-123; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Standard license plates, 61-3-332.

61-9-210. Mounting of reflectors, clearance lamps, and side marker lamps. (1) Reflectors when required by 61-9-208 shall be mounted at a height not less than 24 inches and not higher than 60 inches above the ground on which the vehicle stands, except that if the highest part of the permanent structure of the vehicle is less than 24 inches the reflector at such point shall be mounted as high as that part of the permanent structure will permit.

(2) The rear reflectors on a pole trailer may be mounted on each side of the bolster or load.

(3) Any required red reflector on the rear of a vehicle may be incorporated with the taillamp, but such reflector shall meet all the other reflector requirements of this chapter.

(4) Clearance lamps shall be mounted on the permanent structure of the vehicle in such a manner as to indicate its extreme width and as near the top thereof as practicable. Clearance lamps and side marker lamps may be mounted in combination provided illumination is given as required herein with reference to both.

History: En. Sec. 121, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-124.

Cross-References

Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-211. Visibility of reflectors, clearance lamps, and marker lamps. (1) Every reflector upon any vehicle referred to in 61-9-208 shall be of such size and characteristics and so maintained as to be readily visible at nighttime from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet from the vehicle when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps. Reflectors required to be mounted on the sides of the vehicle shall reflect the required color of light to the sides, and those mounted on the rear shall reflect a red color to the rear.

(2) Front and rear clearance lamps shall be capable of being seen and distinguished under normal atmospheric conditions, at the times lights are required, at a distance of 500 feet from the front and rear respectively of the vehicle.

(3) Side marker lamps shall be capable of being seen and distinguished under normal atmospheric conditions, at the times lights are required, at a distance of 500 feet from the side of the vehicle on which mounted.

History: En. Sec. 122, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-125.

61-9-212. Obstructed lights not required. Whenever motor and other vehicles are operated in combination during the time that lights are required, any lamp (except taillamps) need not be lighted which, by reason of its location on a vehicle of the combination, would be obscured by another vehicle of the combination, but this shall not affect the requirements that lighted clearance lamps be displayed on the front of the foremost vehicle required to have clearance lamps or that all lights required on the rear of the rearmost vehicle of any combination shall be lighted.

History: En. Sec. 123, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-126.

61-9-213. Lamp or flag on projecting load. (1) Whenever the load upon a vehicle extends to the rear 4 feet or more beyond the rear of the vehicle, the following lamps and reflectors must be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in 61-9-201:

(a) a red lamp plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and 1,000 feet to the rear and located to indicate maximum overhang; and

(b) a red reflector visible at night at all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps.

(2) The red lights and reflectors required under this section must be in addition to the red lights required upon a vehicle. At any other time there must be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load a red flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square, marking the extremities of the load, at each point where a lamp or reflector would otherwise be required by this section.

History: En. Sec. 124, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-127; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-214. Lamps on parked vehicles. (1) Whenever a vehicle is lawfully parked upon a street or highway during the hours between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and in the event there is sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street or highway no lights need be displayed upon such parked vehicle.

(2) Whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended, during the hours between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise and there is not sufficient light to reveal any person or object within a distance of 500 feet upon such highway, such vehicle so parked or stopped shall be equipped with one or more lamps meeting the following requirements: at least one lamp shall display a white or amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and the same lamp or at least one other lamp shall display a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and the location of said lamp or lamps, shall always be such that at least one lamp or combination of lamps meeting the requirements of this section is installed as near as practicable to the side of the vehicle which is closest to passing traffic. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to a motor-driven cycle.

(3) Any lighted headlamp upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.

History: En. Sec. 125, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-128.

Cross-References

Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Unattended motor vehicles, 61-8-357.

61-9-215. Lamps on farm tractors, farm equipment, and implements of husbandry. (1) A farm tractor and a self-propelled farm equipment unit or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the vehicle, and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The lights required in this section must be positioned so that one lamp showing to the front and one lamp or reflector showing to the rear indicates the farthest projection of the tractor, unit, or implement on the side of the road used in passing the vehicle.

(2) A combination of farm tractor and towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry not equipped with an electric lighting system or an implement of husbandry being towed by a motor vehicle must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with the following lamps:

(a) at least one lamp mounted to indicate the extreme left projection of the combination and displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front of the combination; and

(b) two lamps each displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the combination, or at least one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear of the combination and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear of the combination when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The lamps or reflectors must be mounted to indicate the extreme left and right rear projections of the towed unit or implement on the highway.

(3) A farm tractor and a self-propelled unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with two multiple-beam or single-beam headlamps meeting the requirements of 61-9-220 or 61-9-222 and two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear, or one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The red lamps or reflectors must be mounted in the rear of the farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry to indicate the extreme left and right projections of the vehicle on the highway.

(4) A combination of farm tractor and towed farm equipment or towed implement of husbandry equipped with an electric lighting system must at all times mentioned in 61-9-201 be equipped with the following lamps:

(a) The farm tractor element of the combination must be equipped with two single-beam or multiple-beam headlamps meeting the requirements of 61-9-220 or 61-9-222.

(b) The towed unit of farm equipment or implement of husbandry element of the combination must be equipped with two red lamps visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear or one red lamp visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from a distance of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps. The red lamps or reflectors must be located to indicate the extreme left and right projections of the towed unit or implement on the highway.

(c) The combination must also be equipped with a lamp displaying a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front and a lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear. The lamp or lamps must indicate to the front and rear the farthest projection of the combination on the side of the road used by other vehicles in passing the combination.

History: **En. Sec. 126, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-129; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 431, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.
Farm tractor defined, 61-9-102.

61-9-216. Lamps on other vehicles and equipment. A vehicle, including animal-drawn vehicles and vehicles referred to in 61-9-109(4), not specifically required by the provisions of this chapter to be equipped with lamps or other lighting devices, must at all times specified in 61-9-201 be equipped with at least one lamp displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, and with two lamps displaying red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle. The vehicle may have one lamp displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible for distances of 100 to 600 feet to the rear when illuminated by the upper beams of headlamps.

History: **En. Sec. 127, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-130(a); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 431, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles, 61-8-108, 61-9-107.
Violation of general lighting requirement and slow-moving vehicle provisions — penalty, 61-9-513.

61-9-217. Spot lamps, fog lamps, and auxiliary lamps. (1) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two spot lamps and a lighted spot lamp must be turned off upon approaching another moving vehicle from either direction.

(2) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two fog lamps that provide a low, wide-angle light pattern to increase short-range visibility. Fog lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not more than 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle at a distance of 25 feet ahead projects higher than a level of 4 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog lamps meeting the requirements of this subsection may be used with lower headlamp beams as specified in 61-9-220(2). A fog lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps.

(3) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two auxiliary driving lamps that produce a long-range, pencil-shaped light pattern and that are used to supplement the upper beams of headlamps. Auxiliary driving lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not less than 16 inches or more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of 61-9-220 apply to a combination of headlamps and auxiliary driving lamps. An auxiliary driving lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps or lighted at any time the headlamps are required to be on in the low-beam position.

(4) An auxiliary off-road lamp mounted more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands may not be lighted while the vehicle is operated or parked on a highway.

History: **En. Sec. 128, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-131; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 431, L. 1997.**

61-9-218. Signal lamps and signal devices — when required. (1) A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles may be equipped and when required under this chapter must be equipped with signal lamps showing to the front and rear for the purpose of indicating an intention to turn either to the right or left. The lamps showing to the front must be located on the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a white or amber light, or a shade of color between white and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the front in normal sunlight. The lamps showing to the rear must be located at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable. Except as provided in subsection (3), when in use, the lamps must display a red or amber light, or a shade of color between red and amber, visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight. When actuated the lamps must indicate the intended direction of turning by flashing the lights showing to the front and rear on the side toward which the turn is made.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer must be equipped with signal lamps meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) On a motor vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1964, the signal lamps required by this section must be visible from a distance of not less than 100 feet. Signal lamps are not required on any vehicle manufactured or assembled before January 1, 1953.

(4) A stop lamp or signal lamp or device may not project a glaring light.

History: En. Sec. 130, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-133; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Turning movements and required signals, 61-8-336.

Signals by hand and arm or signal device, 61-8-337.

61-9-219. Additional lighting equipment. (1) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or white light without glare.

(2) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one running board courtesy lamp on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

(3) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two backup lamps either separately or in combination with other lamps, but any such backup lamps shall not be lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

(4) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps which may be used for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing, and when so equipped may display such warning in addition to any other warning signals required by this chapter. The lamps used to display such warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red. These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

History: En. Sec. 131, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-134.

Cross-References

Vehicle width, 61-10-102.

61-9-220. Multiple-beam road-lighting equipment. Except as provided in this part, the headlamps or the auxiliary driving lamps or combination of both on a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or low-speed electric vehicle, must be arranged so that the driver may select between distributions of light projected to different elevations. The selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

(1) There must be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead for all conditions of loading.

(2) There must be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet ahead. On a straight level road under any condition of loading the high-intensity portion of the beam may not be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching driver.

(3) A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or low-speed electric vehicle, manufactured after January 1, 1956, that has multiple-beam road-lighting

equipment must be equipped with a beam indicator that must be lighted whenever the uppermost distribution of light from the headlamps is in use, and may not otherwise be lighted. The indicator must be readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 132, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-135; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 209, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-221. Use of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment. Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent to a roadway during the times specified in 61-9-201, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations:

(1) Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 1,000 feet, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam that does not project into the eyes of the oncoming driver. The lowermost distribution of light specified in 61-9-220(2) must avoid glare at all times, regardless of road contour and loading.

(2) Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 500 feet to the rear, the driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this chapter other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in 61-9-220(1).

History: En. Sec. 133, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-136; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Following too closely, 61-8-329.

61-9-222. Single-beam road-lighting equipment. Headlamps arranged to provide a single distribution of light shall be permitted on motor vehicles manufactured and sold prior to July 1, 1956, in lieu of multiple-beam road-lighting equipment herein specified if the single distribution of light complies with the following requirements and limitations:

(1) The headlamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded none of the high-intensity portion of the light shall at a distance of 25 feet ahead project higher than a level of 5 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes, and in no case higher than 42 inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75 feet ahead.

(2) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 200 feet.

History: En. Sec. 134, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-137.

61-9-223. Lighting equipment on motor-driven cycles. The headlamp or headlamps upon every motor-driven cycle may be of the single-beam or multiple-beam type but in either event shall comply with the requirements and limitations as follows:

(1) Every said headlamp or headlamps on a motor-driven cycle shall be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or a vehicle at a distance of not less than 100 feet when the motor-driven cycle is operated at any speed less than 25 miles per hour and at a distance of not less than 200 feet when the motor-driven cycle is operated at a speed of 25 or more miles per hour, and at a distance of not less than 300 feet when the motor-driven cycle is operated at a speed of 35 or more miles per hour.

(2) In the event the motor-driven cycle is equipped with a multiple-beam headlamp or headlamps the upper beam shall meet the minimum requirements set forth above and shall not exceed the limitations set forth in 61-9-220(1) and the lowermost beam shall meet the requirements applicable to a lowermost distribution of light as set forth in 61-9-220(2).

(3) In the event the motor-driven cycle is equipped with a single-beam lamp or lamps, said lamp or lamps shall be so aimed that when the vehicle is loaded none of the high-intensity portion of light at a distance of 25 feet ahead shall project higher than the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes.

History: En. Sec. 135, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-138.

Cross-References

Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Riding on motorcycles, 61-8-359.

61-9-224. Repealed. Sec. 42, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 136, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-139.

61-9-225. Number of driving lamps required or permitted. (1) At all times specified in 61-9-201, at least two lighted lamps shall be displayed, one on each side at the front of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, quadricycle, or motor-driven cycle, except when such vehicle is parked, subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.

(2) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with headlamps as herein required is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of intensity greater than 300 candlepower, not more than a total of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when upon a highway.

History: En. Sec. 137, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-140; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-226. Special restrictions on lamps — definition. (1) A lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, or flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps, and school bus warning lamps that projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candlepower must be so directed that the high intensity portion of the beam may not strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than 75 feet from the vehicle.

(2) A person may not drive or move a vehicle or equipment upon a highway with a lamp or device displaying a red light visible from in front of the center of the vehicle. This section does not apply to a vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by this code.

(3) Flashing, blinking, sequential, rotating, or pulsating lights are prohibited except on vehicles that are authorized by this chapter to contain the lights or on a vehicle as a means for indicating a right or left turn or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing.

(4) License plate decorative lighting that is not original manufacturer's equipment or undercarriage decorative lighting that rotates, flashes, or oscillates or that displays a color authorized by this chapter for use by police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles may not be illuminated on a vehicle that is operated upon a highway or street.

(5) As used in this section "school bus" has the meaning provided in 20-10-101.

History: En. Sec. 138, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-141; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 214, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
School bus defined, 61-8-102.

61-9-227. Blinker-type or revolving red light on certain private vehicles — use — identification card. (1) Firefighters, when authorized by the chiefs of their respective departments, and search and rescue and volunteer emergency medical personnel, when authorized by the county sheriff, may use a blinker-type or revolving red light or both on the front or the top of their privately owned motor vehicles. This light must be used on emergency duty only while responding to but not upon returning from a fire or other emergency.

(2) A firefighter or search and rescue or volunteer emergency medical personnel displaying the emergency red light on a privately owned motor vehicle shall also carry on the vehicle an identification card showing the name of the owner of the vehicle and the organization to which the firefighter or search and rescue or volunteer emergency medical personnel belongs, and bearing the signature of the person authorizing the emergency use of the light.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-141.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Provision for fire equipment, 7-33-4202.
Unauthorized use of firefighter's private vehicle — penalty, 61-9-514.

61-9-228. Standards for lights on snow-removal equipment. (1) The commission shall adopt standards and specifications applicable to headlamps, clearance lamps, and identification and other lamps on snow-removal equipment when operated on the highways of this state in lieu of the lamps otherwise required on motor vehicles by this chapter. The standards and specifications may permit the use of flashing lights and all colored lights, except blue lights, for purposes of identification on snow-removal equipment when in service on the highways.

(2) It is unlawful to operate any snow-removal equipment on any highway unless the lamps on the equipment comply with and are lighted when and as required by the standards and specifications adopted as provided in this section.

History: En. Sec. 139, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-142; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Transportation Commission, 2-15-2502; Title 60, ch. 2, part 1.

61-9-229. Flashing amber light on mail delivery vehicle. (1) A vehicle engaged in delivery of United States mail may be equipped with a blinker-type or revolving amber light mounted on the top of the vehicle, and the light may be illuminated while the vehicle is engaged in delivery of mail.

(2) A person delivering the United States mail and illuminating an amber light on a privately owned motor vehicle shall carry attached to the motor vehicle an identification card showing the name of the owner of the vehicle and signed by the postmaster authorizing the use of the amber light.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Right-of-way for military not to interfere with mail delivery, 10-1-602.

Part 3
Brakes

61-9-301. Brake equipment required. Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer, and any combination of such vehicles operating upon a highway within this state shall be equipped with brakes in compliance with the requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(part).

Cross-References

Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-302. Service brakes — adequacy. Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer and combination of these vehicles, except special mobile equipment, must be equipped with service brakes complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312 and adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold the vehicle under all conditions of loading and on any grade incident to its operation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(a); amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

61-9-303. Parking brakes — adequacy. Every such vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other source of power, provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind. The same brake drums, brake shoes and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(b); amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-304. Brakes required on all wheels — exceptions. Every vehicle must be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels except:

(1) trailers, semitrailers, pole trailers of a gross weight not exceeding 3,000 pounds, provided that:

(a) the total weight on and including the wheels of the trailer or trailers may not exceed 40% of the gross weight of the towing vehicle when connected to the trailer or trailers; and

(b) the combination of vehicles consisting of the towing vehicle and its total towed load is capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312;

(2) any vehicle being towed in driveaway or towaway operations, provided the combination of vehicles is capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312;

(3) trucks and truck tractors having three or more axles need not have brakes on the front wheels, if the vehicle was manufactured before July 25, 1980. However, the trucks and truck tractors must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312.

(4) special mobile equipment;

(5) the wheel of a sidecar attached to a motorcycle or to a motor-driven cycle, or the front wheel of a motor-driven cycle need not be equipped with brakes. However, a quadricycle, motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle must be capable of complying with the performance requirements of 61-9-312.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(c); amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 276, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 216, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Permit and transit plates for new vehicles being transported by driveaway or towaway methods, 61-4-301.

61-9-305. Automatic trailer brake application upon breakaway. Every trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer equipped with air or vacuum actuated brakes and every trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer with a gross weight in excess of 3,000 pounds, manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, shall be equipped with brakes acting on all wheels and of such character as to be applied automatically and promptly, and remain applied for at least 15 minutes upon breakaway from the towing vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(d).

61-9-306. Tractor brakes protected. Every motor vehicle manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, and used to tow a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer equipped with brakes shall be equipped with means for providing that in case of breakaway of the towed vehicle, the towing vehicle will be capable of being stopped by the use of its service brakes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(e).

61-9-307. Trailer air reservoirs safeguarded. Air brake systems installed on trailers manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1966, shall be so designed that the supply reservoir used to provide air for the brakes shall be safeguarded against backflow of air from the reservoir through the supply line.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(f).

Cross-References

Trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-308. Two means of emergency brake operation. (1) A towing vehicle, when used to tow another vehicle equipped with air controlled brakes, in other than driveaway or towaway operations, must be equipped with two means for emergency application of the trailer brakes. One of these means must apply the brakes automatically in the event of a reduction of the towing vehicle air supply to a fixed pressure that may not be lower than 20 pounds per square inch or higher than 45 pounds per square inch. The other means must be a manually controlled device for applying and releasing the brakes, readily operable by a person seated in the driving seat, and its emergency position or method of operation must be clearly indicated. The manual means may not be arranged to prevent operation of the automatic means. The automatic and the manual means required by this section may be separate.

(2) A towing vehicle used to tow other vehicles equipped with vacuum brakes, in operations other than driveaway or towaway operations, must have, in addition to the single control device required by 61-9-309, a second control device that can be used to operate the brakes on towed vehicles in emergencies. The second control must be independent of brake air, hydraulic, and other pressure, and independent of other controls, unless the braking system is so arranged that failure of the pressure upon which the second control depends causes the towed vehicle brakes to be applied automatically. The second control is not required to provide modulated braking.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(g); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-309. Single control to operate all brakes. A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, and a combination of these vehicles, except motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles, equipped with brakes must have one control device that can be used to operate all service brakes. This requirement does not prohibit vehicles from being equipped with an additional control device to operate brakes on the towed vehicles. This regulation does not apply to driveaway or towaway operations unless the brakes on the individual vehicles can be operated by a single control on the towing vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(h); amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-310. Reservoir capacity and check valve. (1) A bus, truck, or truck tractor with air operated brakes must be equipped with at least one reservoir sufficient to ensure that, when fully charged to the maximum pressure as regulated by the air compressor governor cutout setting, a full service brake application is made without lowering the reservoir pressure by more than 20%. Each reservoir must be provided with means for readily draining accumulated oil or water.

(2) A truck with three or more axles equipped with vacuum assistor type brakes or a truck tractor and truck used for towing a vehicle equipped with vacuum brakes must be equipped with a reserve capacity or a vacuum reservoir sufficient to ensure that, with the reserve capacity or reservoir fully charged and with the engine stopped, a full service brake application is made without depleting the vacuum supply by more than 40%.

(3) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer, when equipped with air or vacuum reservoirs or reserve capacity as required by this section, must have reservoirs or reserve capacity safeguarded by a check valve or equivalent device that, in the event of failure or leakage in its connection to the source of compressed air or vacuum, prevents the stored air or vacuum from being depleted by the leak or failure.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(i); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.

Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Axle defined, 61-10-104.

61-9-311. Warning devices. (1) A bus, truck, or truck tractor using compressed air for the operation of its own brakes or the brakes on a towed vehicle must have a warning signal, other than a pressure gauge, readily audible or visible to the driver that will operate at any time the air reservoir pressure of the vehicle is below 60 pounds per square inch. In addition, each vehicle must be equipped with a pressure gauge visible to the driver that indicates in pounds per square inch the pressure available for braking.

(2) A truck tractor, truck used for towing a vehicle equipped with vacuum operated brakes, or a truck with three or more axles using vacuum in the operation of its brakes, except those in driveaway or towaway operations, must be equipped with a warning signal, other than a gauge indicating vacuum, readily audible or visible to the driver that will operate at any time the vacuum in the vehicle's supply reservoir or reserve capacity is less than 8 inches of mercury.

(3) When a vehicle required to be equipped with a warning device is equipped with both air and vacuum power for the operation of its own brakes or the brakes on a towed vehicle, the warning devices may be combined into a single device that will serve both purposes. A gauge or gauges indicating pressure or vacuum is not an adequate means of satisfying this requirement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.1(j); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-312. Performance ability of brakes. On a dry, hard, approximately level stretch of highway free from loose material, a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles, upon application of the service brake, must be capable of stopping at a speed of 20 miles an hour within the following distances:

(1) 25 feet for passenger motor vehicles, except buses and pioneer vehicles;

(2) 40 feet for buses, trucks, and tractor trucks;

(3) 45 feet for motor vehicles registered or qualified to be registered as pioneer vehicles under 61-3-411(2)(a) when equipped with two-wheel brakes or 25 feet when equipped with four-wheel brakes;

(4) 40 feet for all combinations of vehicles; and

(5) 30 feet for motorcycles, quadricycles, and motor-driven cycles.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.2; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-313. Maintenance of brakes. All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.3.

61-9-314. Hydraulic brake fluid. (1) The term "hydraulic brake fluid" as used in this section shall mean the liquid medium through which force is transmitted to the brakes in the hydraulic brake system of a vehicle.

(2) Hydraulic brake fluid shall be distributed and serviced with due regard for the safety of the occupants of the vehicle and the public.

(3) The department shall, after public hearing following due notice, adopt and enforce regulations for the administration of this section and shall adopt and publish standards and specifications for hydraulic brake fluid which shall correlate with, and so far as practicable conform to, the then current standards and specifications of the society of automotive engineers applicable to such fluid.

(4) No person shall distribute, have for sale, offer for sale, or sell any hydraulic brake fluid unless it complies with the requirements of this section. No person shall service any vehicle with brake fluid unless it complies with the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 139, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-143.4; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-9-315. Brakes on motor-driven cycles. (1) The department is authorized to require an inspection of the brake on any motor-driven cycle and to disapprove any brake which it finds will not comply with the performance ability standard set forth in this part or which in its opinion is not designed or constructed to insure reasonable and reliable performance in actual use.

(2) The department may refuse to register or may suspend or revoke the registration of any vehicle referred to in this section when it has been determined that the brake thereon does not comply with the provisions of this section.

(3) No person may operate on any highway any vehicle referred to in this section if the department has disapproved the brake equipment upon such vehicle or type of vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 141, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-144; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.

Registration, Title 61, ch. 3, part 3.

61-9-316 through 61-9-320 reserved.

61-9-321. Engine compression brake device — use. (1) A commercial motor vehicle equipped with an engine compression brake device must be equipped with a muffler in good working condition to prevent excessive noise.

(2) An operator of a commercial motor vehicle that has an engine compression brake device with a factory-installed muffler or an equivalent after-market muffler may not be prohibited from using the engine compression brake device.

(3) The department of transportation employees who are designated as peace officers pursuant to 61-10-154 shall work with law enforcement in the enforcement of standards adopted pursuant to this section.

(4) Notice of a deficiency must be given pursuant to 61-9-501.

(5) A violation of the rules adopted to implement to this section is punishable as provided in 61-9-521.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 217, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 2009.

Part 4
Miscellaneous Regulations

61-9-401. Horns, security alarms, and warning devices. (1) A motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet. A horn or other warning device may not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation give audible warning with the horn but may not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

(2) A vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use upon a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

(3) A vehicle may be equipped with a security alarm signal device that cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal while the vehicle is in motion.

(4) An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the department. The siren may not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the vehicle's approach.

History: En. Sec. 142, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-145; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.

Police vehicle defined, 61-8-102.

Police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles, 61-8-107.

Operation of vehicles on approach of law enforcement vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles, 61-8-387, 61-8-388.

Pedestrians — drivers to exercise due care, 61-8-504.

61-9-402. Audible and visual signals on police, emergency vehicles, and on-scene command vehicles — immunity. (1) A police vehicle must be equipped with a siren capable of giving an audible signal and may be equipped with alternately flashing or rotating red or blue lights as specified in this section.

(2) An authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped:

(a) with a siren and an alternately flashing or rotating red light as specified in this section; and

(b) with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable that are capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

(3) (a) A bus used for the transportation of school children must be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, displaying to the front at least two red and two amber alternating flashing lights and to the rear at least two red and two amber alternating flashing lights. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

(b) Additional red flashing lights may be mounted to the front and to the rear at a height of at least 36 inches and not more than 72 inches from the ground. If additional red lights are mounted, they must be installed so that they can be actuated only if the school bus is stopped.

(c) The specifications for the warning lights must be prescribed by the board of public education and approved by the department.

(4) A police vehicle and an authorized emergency vehicle may, and an emergency service vehicle must, be equipped with alternately flashing or rotating amber lights as specified in this section.

(5) The use of signal equipment as described in this section imposes upon the operators of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way or to stop and to proceed past the signal or light as provided in 61-8-387 and 61-8-388 and subject to the provisions of 61-8-209 and 61-8-303.

(6) An employee, agent, or representative of the state or a political subdivision of the state or of a governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, who is operating a police vehicle, an authorized emergency vehicle, or an emergency service vehicle and using signal equipment in rendering assistance at a highway crash scene or in response to any other hazard on the roadway that presents an immediate hazard or an emergency or life-threatening situation is not liable, except for willful misconduct, bad faith, or gross negligence, for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liabilities resulting from a motorist operating a vehicle in violation of subsection (5).

(7) Blue, red, and amber lights required in this section must be mounted as high as and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and be capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing lights of the specified color located at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing lights of the specified color located at the same level or one rotating light of the specified color, mounted as high as is practicable and visible from both the front and the rear. These lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. Except as provided in 61-9-204(6), only police vehicles, as defined in 61-8-102, may display blue lights, lenses, or globes.

(8) A police vehicle and authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a flashing signal lamp that is green in color, visible from 360 degrees, and attached to the exterior roof of the vehicle for purposes of designation as the on-scene command and control vehicle in an emergency or disaster. The green light must have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. Only the on-scene command and control vehicle may display green lights, lenses, or globes.

(9) Only a police vehicle or an authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with the means to flash or alternate its headlamps or its backup lights.

(10) A violation of subsection (5) is considered reckless endangerment of a highway worker, as provided in 61-8-389(2), and is punishable as provided in 61-8-715.

History: En. Sec. 129, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 153, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-132; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 520, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 352, L.

2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 379, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 218, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 449, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Code Commissioner Correction: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 567, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

In (5) the Code Commissioner substituted "61-8-387 and 61-8-388" for "61-8-388 and 61-8-389" to correct an erroneous reference.

Cross-References

School bus requirements, 20-10-102.
Duties of Board of Public Education, 20-10-111.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
Police vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
School bus defined, 61-8-102.
Police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles, 61-8-107.
Reckless driving, 61-8-301.
Meeting or passing school bus, 61-8-351.
Prohibited operation of special lighting equipment on school buses, 61-8-352.
Operation of vehicles on approach of law enforcement vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles, 61-8-387, 61-8-388.

61-9-403. Mufflers — prevention of noise. (1) Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway.

(2) The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

History: En. Sec. 143, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-146.

Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

61-9-404. Mirrors. A motor vehicle must be equipped with a mirror that reflects to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motor vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 144, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-147; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-405. Windshields required, exception — unobstructed and equipped with wipers — window tinting and sunscreening — restrictions — exemptions. (1) A motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or farm tractor, must be equipped with a front windshield meeting the requirements of 61-9-408, unless the driver wears safety glasses, goggles, or face shields at all times during the operation of the motor vehicle.

(2) A person may not drive a motor vehicle with:

(a) a sign, poster, substance, or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, side wings, or side or rear windows of the vehicle that materially obstructs, obscures, or impairs the driver's clear view of the highway or an intersecting highway; or

(b) a windshield that is shattered or in such a defective condition that it materially impairs or obstructs the driver's clear view.

(3) The windshield on a motor vehicle must be equipped with a device for clearing rain, snow, or other moisture from the windshield. The device must be maintained in good working order.

(4) A person may not operate a motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this state upon a highway if:

(a) the windshield has sunscreening material that is not clear and transparent below the AS-1 line or if it has a sunscreening material that is red, yellow, or amber in color above the AS-1 line;

(b) the front side windows have sunscreening or other transparent material that has a luminous reflectance of more than 35% or has light transmission of less than 24%;

(c) the rear window or side windows behind the front seat have sunscreening or other transparent material that has a luminous reflectance of more than 35% or has light transmission of less than 14%, except for the rear window or side windows behind the front seat on a multipurpose vehicle, van, or bus; or

(d) the windows of a camper, motor home, pickup cover, slide-in camper, or other motor vehicle do not meet the standards for safety glazing material specified by federal law in 49 CFR 571.205.

(5) As used in 61-9-428, 61-9-429, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Glass-plastic glazing material" means a laminate of one or more layers of glass and one or more layers of plastic in which a plastic surface of the glazing faces inward when the glazing is installed in a vehicle.

(b) "Light transmission" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, that is allowed to pass through the sunscreening or transparent material to the amount of total light falling on the motor vehicle window.

(c) "Luminous reflectance" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, that is reflected outward by the sunscreening or transparent material to the amount of total light falling on the motor vehicle window.

(d) "Multipurpose vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers that is constructed on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road use.

(e) "Pickup cover" means a camper having a roof and sides but without a floor designed to be mounted on and removable from the cargo area of a pickup truck by the user.

(f) "Slide-in camper" means a camper having a roof, floor, and sides designed to be mounted on and removable from the cargo area of a truck by the user.

(g) "Sunscreening material" means a film, material, tint, or device applied to motor vehicle windows for the purpose of reducing the effects of the sun.

(6) Except as provided in subsection (7), subsection (4) applies to all vehicles that are equipped with tinted windows, including windows with less than 100% light transmission to which additional sunscreening material has been applied.

(7) Subsection (4) does not apply to a multipurpose vehicle that is equipped with tinted windows that were installed by the manufacturer of the vehicle or to a hearse, ambulance, government vehicle, or any other vehicle to which a currently valid certificate of waiver is affixed as specified under 61-9-428. A certificate of waiver must be issued by the department for a vehicle that was registered in this state on October 1, 1991, and was equipped with a sunscreening device or other material prohibited under subsection (4) on October 1, 1991.

History: En. Sec. 145, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-148; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 777, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 219, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Automobile glass — sale, repair, or replacement — advertising allowed, 30-14-225.
Automobile glass repair shops — provisions pertaining to insurance, 33-18-221 through 33-18-223.
Obstruction to driver's view or driving mechanism, 61-8-360.

61-9-406. Restrictions as to tire equipment — particular tires, chains, or traction devices — definitions. (1) A solid rubber tire on a vehicle must have rubber on its entire traction surface at least 1 inch thick above the edge of the flange of the entire periphery.

(2) A person may not operate or move on a highway a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer having a metal tire in contact with the roadway.

(3) A tire on a vehicle moved on a highway may not have on its periphery a block, stud, flange, cleat, spike, or other protuberance of a material other than rubber that projects beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that it is permissible to use farm machinery with tires having protuberances that will not injure the highway. It is also permissible to use tire chains of reasonable proportions or pneumatic tires, the traction surfaces of which have been embedded with material, such as wood, wire, plastic or metal, that may not protrude more than one-sixteenth of an inch beyond the tire tread or that are clearly marked by the manufacturer on the sidewall "all season m&s" (or "all season mud and snow"), upon a vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid. Except as provided in subsection (4), the use of pneumatic tires embedded as provided in this section is permitted only between October 1 and May 31 of each year, except that one of those tires may be used for a spare in case of tire failure. School buses equipped with such embedded pneumatic tires may operate from August 15 through the following June 15.

(4) Pneumatic tires that feature an embedded block, stud, flange, cleat, spike, or other protuberance that is retractable may be used at any time of the year. However, the protuberance

may not be engaged or extended other than between October 1 and May 31 of each year on roads that do not contain ice or snow.

(5) The department of transportation and local authorities, as defined in 61-8-102, in their respective jurisdictions may in their discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation upon a highway of farm tractors or other farm machinery or of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of the movable tracks, the operation of which upon the highway would otherwise be prohibited under this section.

(6) The department of transportation may determine at any time that dangerous or unsafe conditions on a highway require particular tires, tire chains, or traction devices for vehicles in addition to or beyond the ordinary pneumatic rubber tires.

(7) The department of transportation shall place and maintain signs and other traffic control devices on a highway designated under subsection (6) that indicate the tire, tire chain, or traction device requirement determined for vehicles. The signs or traffic control devices may not prohibit the use of pneumatic tires embedded as provided in subsection (3) between October 1 and May 31 of each year, but when the department of transportation determines that chains are required and that no other traction devices will suffice, the requirement is applicable to tires on driver wheels of one axle, as defined in 61-10-104, of a vehicle, including embedded tires. The signs or traffic control devices may differentiate in requirements for four-wheel-drive vehicles in gear.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "metal tire" means a tire the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly metal or other hard, nonresilient material; and

(b) "pneumatic tire" means a tire in which compressed air or nitrogen is designed to support the load.

History: En. Sec. 146, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-149(a) thru (d); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 220, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2015.

Cross-References

School bus defined, 20-10-101, 61-8-102.
Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Special mobile equipment defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Farm tractor defined, 61-9-102.
Violations of tire restrictions — penalty, 61-9-519.
Special permits, 61-10-146.
Powers of local authorities to regulate traffic, 61-12-101.

61-9-407. Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps required on certain vehicles — dimension and location. (1) A person may not move, or permit to be moved, a vehicle, except a motorcycle, quadricycle, motor-driven cycle, or farm tractor, as defined in this title, upon the public highways without having first equipped the rearmost wheels or set of wheels of the vehicle with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps. The fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must be designed, constructed, and attached to the vehicle in a manner that arrests and deflects dirt, mud, water, rocks, and other substances that may be picked up by the rear wheels of the vehicle and thrown into the air, as follows:

(a) If the vehicle is equipped with fenders, the fenders must extend in full width from a point above and forward of the center of the tire or tires over and to the rear of the tires.

(b) If the vehicle is equipped with splash aprons or flaps, the splash aprons or flaps must extend downward in full width from a point not lower than halfway between the center of the tire or tires and the top of the tire or tires and to the rear of the tires.

(c) If the vehicle is in excess of 8,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 10 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(d) If the vehicle is 8,000 pounds or less gross vehicle weight or rating, the fenders, splash aprons, or flaps must extend downward to a point that is not more than 20 inches above the surface of the highway when the vehicle is empty.

(2) Fenders, splash aprons, or flaps, as used in subsection (1), must be constructed as follows:

(a) when measured on the cross-sections of the tread of the wheel or on the combined cross-sections of the treads of multiple wheels, the fender, splash apron, or flap extends at least to each side of the width of the tire or of the combined width of the multiple tires; and

(b) the fender, splash apron, or flap is capable at all times of arresting and deflecting dirt, mud, water, or other substance that may be picked up and carried by the wheel or wheels.

(3) This section does not apply to a street rod as defined in 61-1-101, motor vehicles not originally equipped with fenders, splash aprons, or flaps, or motor vehicles for which fenders, splash aprons, or flaps were not required by federal law or regulation at the time of manufacture.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-149.1(a), (b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 791, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 458, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Violations of provisions relating to fenders, splash aprons, or flaps — penalty, 61-9-515.

61-9-408. Safety glazing material in motor vehicles. (1) A person may not sell a new motor vehicle and a new motor vehicle may not be registered unless the vehicle is equipped with safety glazing material wherever glazing material is used in doors, windows, and windshields. These provisions apply to all passenger-type motor vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses. With respect to trucks, including truck tractors, the requirements as to safety glazing material apply to all glazing material used in doors, windows, and windshields in the driver's compartments of the vehicles.

(2) The term "safety glazing materials" means glazing materials constructed, treated, or combined with other materials to reduce substantially in comparison with ordinary sheet glass or plate glass the likelihood of injury to persons by objects from exterior sources or by these safety glazing materials when they may be cracked or broken.

History: En. Sec. 147, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-150; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Sales and distribution of motor vehicles, Title 61, ch. 4.
School bus defined, 61-8-102.

61-9-409. Seatbelts required in vehicles manufactured after 1964. (1) An automobile that was manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1965, and on or before January 1, 1968, must be equipped with safety belts installed for use in the left front and right front seats.

(2) A motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, must be equipped at each designated seating position with a safety belt system required for that seating position by the standards of the United States department of transportation at the time that the vehicle was manufactured.

(3) The safety belts required by this section must remain installed and in good working condition.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-150.1; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Sales and distribution of motor vehicles, Title 61, ch. 4.
Penalty for seatbelt violations, 61-9-516.
Montana Seatbelt Use Act, Title 61, ch. 13, part 1.

61-9-410. Repealed. Sec. 42, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-150.2; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-9-411. Certain vehicles to carry flares or other warning devices. (1) No person shall operate any motor truck of 1-ton capacity or greater, passenger bus, or truck tractor upon any highway outside the corporate limits of municipalities at any time unless there shall be carried in such vehicle, except as provided in subsection (2), the following equipment:

(a) at least three flares or three red electric lanterns or three portable red emergency reflectors each of which shall be capable of being seen and distinguished at a distance of not less than 600 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at nighttime. No portable reflector unit shall be used for the purpose of compliance with the requirements of this section unless it is so designed and constructed as to display a minimum of 24 square inches of reflective surface, or two reflecting elements; one above the other, either of which shall be capable of reflecting red light clearly visible from all distances within 600 feet to 100 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps;

(b) at least three red-burning fusees unless red electric lanterns or red portable emergency reflectors are carried;

(c) at least two red cloth flags, no less than 12 inches square, with standards to support such flags.

(2) No person shall operate at the time and under the conditions stated in subsection (1) any motor vehicle used for the transportation of explosives, any cargo tank truck used for the transportation of flammable liquids or compressed gases, or any motor vehicle using compressed gas as a fuel unless there shall be carried in such vehicle three red electric lanterns or three portable red emergency reflectors meeting the requirements of subsection (1), and there shall not be carried in any said vehicle any flares, fusees, or signal produced by flame.

(3) As an alternative to the equipment required in subsections (1) and (2), three emergency reflective triangles conforming with U.S. department of transportation motor vehicle safety standard 125 may be carried.

History: En. Sec. 148, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-151.

Cross-References

Administrative rules governing transportation and storage of explosives — Department of Justice, 50-3-102.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Explosives defined, 61-9-102.
Flammable liquid defined, 61-9-412.

61-9-412. Display of warning devices when vehicle disabled. (1) Whenever a motor truck, passenger bus, truck, tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer is disabled upon the traveled portion of any highway or the shoulder of a highway outside of any municipality at any time when lighted lamps are required on vehicles, the driver of that vehicle shall display the following warning devices upon the highway during the time the vehicle is disabled on the highway except as provided in subsection (2):

(a) A lighted fusee, a lighted red electric lantern, or a portable red emergency reflector must be immediately placed at the traffic side of the vehicle in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic.

(b) As soon as possible after complying with subsection (1)(a), but within the burning period of the fusee (15 minutes), the driver shall place three liquid burning flares (pot torches), three lighted red electric lanterns, or three portable red emergency reflectors on the traveled portion of the highway in the following order:

(i) one approximately 100 feet from the disabled vehicle in the center of the lane occupied by the vehicle and toward traffic approaching in that lane;

(ii) one approximately 100 feet in the opposite direction from the disabled vehicle and in the center of the traffic lane occupied by the vehicle;

(iii) one at the traffic side of the disabled vehicle not less than 10 feet rearward or forward of the vehicle in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic. If a lighted red electric lantern or a red portable emergency reflector has been placed at the traffic side of the vehicle in accordance with subsection (1)(b)(i), it may be used for this purpose.

(2) Whenever any vehicle referred to in this section is disabled within 500 feet of a curve, hillcrest, or other obstruction to view, the warning signal in that direction must be placed in order to afford ample warning to other users of the highway but in no case less than 500 feet from the disabled vehicle.

(3) Whenever any vehicle of a type referred to in this section is disabled upon any roadway of a divided highway during the time that lights are required, the appropriate warning devices prescribed in subsections (1) and (5) must be placed as follows:

(a) one at a distance of approximately 200 feet from the vehicle, in the center of the lane occupied by the stopped vehicle and in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane;

(b) one at a distance of approximately 100 feet from the vehicle, in the center of the lane occupied by the vehicle and in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane;

(c) one at the traffic side of the vehicle and approximately 10 feet from the vehicle in the direction of the nearest approaching traffic.

(4) Whenever any vehicle of a type referred to in this section is disabled upon the traveled portion of a highway or the shoulder of a highway outside of any municipality at any time when the display of fusees, flares, red electric lanterns, or portable red emergency reflectors is not required, the driver of the vehicle shall display two red flags upon the roadway in the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled vehicle, or at a distance of approximately 100 feet in advance of the vehicle, and one at a distance of approximately 100 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

(5) (a) Whenever a motor vehicle used in the transportation of explosives, a cargo tank truck used for the transportation of any flammable liquid or compressed flammable gas, or a motor vehicle using compressed gas as a fuel is disabled upon any highway of this state at any time or place mentioned in subsection (1), the driver of the vehicle shall immediately display one red electric lantern or portable red emergency reflector placed on the roadway at the traffic side of the vehicle and two red electric lanterns or portable red reflectors, one placed approximately 100 feet to the front and one placed approximately 100 feet to the rear of the disabled vehicle in the center of the traffic lane occupied by the vehicle.

(b) Flares, fusees, or signals produced by flame may not be used as warning devices for disabled vehicles of the type mentioned in this subsection (5).

(6) The flares, fusees, red electric lanterns, portable red emergency reflectors and flags to be displayed as required in this section must conform with the applicable requirements of 61-9-411.

(7) As used in this section, "flammable liquid" means any liquid that has a flash point of 70 degrees Fahrenheit or less as determined by a Tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device.

History: En. Sec. 149, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-152; amd. Sec. 221, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-413. Vehicles transporting explosives. (1) Any person operating any vehicle transporting any explosive as a cargo or part of a cargo upon a highway shall at all times comply with the provisions of this section.

(2) Said vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and the rear with the word "EXPLOSIVES" in letters not less than 8 inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than 24 inches square marked with the word "DANGER" in white letters 6 inches high.

(3) Every said vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use, and placed at a convenient point on the vehicle so used.

(4) The department is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate such additional regulations governing the transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by vehicles upon the highway as it shall deem advisable for the protection of the public.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-153; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Administrative rules governing transportation and storage of explosives — Department of Justice, 50-3-102.
Explosives defined, 61-9-102.

61-9-414. Logging trucks. (1) A truck or truck trailer combination, except pole trailers, actively engaged in transporting logs must be equipped with chains, cables, steel straps, or fiber webbing with working load limits that meet or exceed the manufacturer's marked value. The number of tie-down assemblies must be determined by the working load limits and the total weight of the load. The working load limits must equal or exceed 1½ times the total weight of the load.

(2) A pole trailer actively engaged in transporting logs upon the highways of the state must be equipped as follows:

(a) At least three wrappers are required as standard equipment. The wrappers must:

(i) have a minimum working load limit of at least 3,000 pounds; and

(ii) be long enough to encompass any load when secured by a binder.

(b) (i) Wrappers used to secure loads of logs together must be fastened by means of a binder.

(ii) The complete wrapper and binder assembly must have a working load limit of at least 3,000 pounds.

(iii) The handle, or leverage portion of the binder, when in use in tightening and holding the wrapper, must be securely fastened to the wrapper or to the binder so that it cannot be accidentally loosened.

(c) At least two wrappers must be in use on all loads. The wrappers must be placed as close as reasonably possible to the front and rear bunks.

(d) If short logs are loaded on top of longer logs, sufficient wrappers must be used to secure both ends of the short logs to the main body of the load. A log may not extend laterally beyond the stakes that form the outer boundary of the load at the top of the stakes. Logs or poles loaded above the tops of the stakes must be loaded in a pyramidal fashion.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "binder" means a device attached to a wrapper that provides tension on and secures a wrapper; and

(b) "wrapper" means an indirect tie-down device, the tension of which is intended to secure a stack of logs.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-122(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-415. Slow-moving vehicles. (1) It is unlawful for a person to operate on a state highway, a farm, rural, or county road, or a city street of this state a slow-moving vehicle or equipment, an animal-drawn vehicle, or any other machinery, including all road construction or maintenance machinery, except when engaged in actual construction or maintenance work either guarded by a flag person, as defined in 61-8-102, or clearly visible warning signs, that normally travels or is normally used at a speed of less than 25 miles an hour, unless there is displayed on the rear of the vehicle an emblem as provided in subsection (2). The requirement of the emblem is in addition to any lighting devices required by law.

(2) The emblem required by subsection (1) must be of substantial construction and must be a based-down equilateral triangle of fluorescent yellow-orange film or equivalent quality paint with a base of 14 inches and a height of 12 inches. The triangle must be bordered with reflective red strips having a minimum width of 1¾ inches, with the vertices of the overall triangle truncated so that the remaining height is a minimum of 14 inches. The emblem must be mounted on the rear of the vehicle near the horizontal geometric center of the vehicle at a height of 3 to 5 feet above the roadway and must be maintained in a clean, reflective condition.

(3) In addition to the requirements in subsection (2), on a highway that has only two lanes for traffic moving in opposite directions, when an overtaking vehicle being operated in conformity with 61-8-303 does not have a clear lane for passing as required by 61-8-325, the driver of a slower-moving, overtaken vehicle shall, at the first opportunity and when a safe turnout exists, move the overtaken vehicle off the main-traveled portion of the highway until the overtaking vehicle is safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

(4) On an interstate highway or on any other four-lane highway, a slow-moving vehicle, subject to the requirements of this section, must be driven in the right lane as far to the right as possible, including the shoulder of the highway.

History: En. Sec. 127, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-130(b), (c), (e); amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 222, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Special mobile equipment defined, 61-1-101.
Flag person defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic laws applicable to persons driving animal-drawn vehicles, 61-8-108.
Minimum speed regulations, 61-8-311.
Violations of general lighting requirements and slow-moving vehicle provisions — penalty, 61-9-513.
Flag vehicle defined, 61-10-102.

61-9-416. Commercial tow truck definition — requirements. (1) "Commercial tow truck" means a motor vehicle operating for compensation that is equipped with specialized equipment designed and intended for towing or the recovery of wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles or other objects creating a hazard on the public roadways. If a tow truck owner or operator's business profits or benefits in any way from towing a vehicle, the tow truck must be considered a commercial tow truck for the purposes of Title 61, chapter 8, and this chapter.

(2) A commercial tow truck must be equipped with:

(a) not less than two red flares, two red lanterns, or two warning lights or reflectors. The reflectors must be of a type approved by the department.

(b) at least two highway warning signs as provided in 61-9-431.

(c) a dry chemical fire extinguisher of at least 5 pound capacity or an equivalent alternative type of fire extinguisher, approved by the department;

(d) a lamp emitting a flashing red or amber light meeting the requirements of 61-9-402(7), or both a red and amber light, mounted on top of the cab of the tow truck or on the top of the crane or hoist if the light can be seen from the front of the tow truck. The light from the lamp must be visible for a distance of 1,000 feet under normal atmospheric conditions and must be mounted so that it can be securely fastened with the lens of the lamp facing the rear of the tow truck upon which it is mounted. When standing at the location from which the disabled vehicle is to be towed, the operator of the tow truck may unfasten the red light and place it in a position considered advisable to warn approaching drivers. When the disabled vehicle is ready for towing, the red light must be turned to the rear of the tow truck upon which it is mounted and securely locked in this position. Additional red or amber lights of an approved type may be displayed at either side or both sides of the tow truck during the period of preparation at the location from which the disabled vehicle is to be towed.

(e) one or more brooms, and the operator of the tow truck engaged to remove a disabled vehicle from the scene of an accident shall remove all glass and debris deposited upon the roadway by the disabled vehicle that is to be towed;

(f) a shovel, and whenever practical, the tow truck operator engaged to remove a disabled vehicle shall spread dirt upon that portion of the roadway where oil or grease has been deposited by the disabled vehicle; and

(g) a portable electrical extension cord or other device for use in displaying stop, turn, and taillamps on the rear of the disabled vehicle. The length of the extension cord may not be less than the length of the combined vehicles. When a disabled vehicle is towed, the tow truck operator shall provide for the rear light that is capable of displaying a stop signal, turn signal, and taillamps by means of the extension cord or other device referred to in this subsection.

(3) The operator of a commercial tow truck used for the purpose of rendering assistance to other vehicles shall, when the rendering of assistance necessitates the obstruction of a portion of the roadway, place a highway warning sign as required in 61-9-431.

(4) The owner or operator of a commercial tow truck who complies with the requirements of 61-8-906 and 61-8-907 and this section may stop or park the tow truck upon a highway for the purpose of rendering assistance to a disabled vehicle, notwithstanding other provisions of this code.

(5) A commercial tow truck company that is in compliance with 61-9-431 and that is operating an emergency service vehicle and using signal equipment in rendering assistance at a highway crash scene or in response to any other hazard on the roadway that presents an immediate hazard or an emergency or life-threatening situation is not liable, except for willful misconduct, bad faith, or gross negligence, for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liabilities resulting from a motorist operating a vehicle in violation of 61-9-402(5).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-161; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 520, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Authorized emergency vehicle defined, 61-8-102.
Violation of towing requirements — penalty, 61-9-517.

61-9-417. Headgear required for minor motorcycle riders. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an operator and passenger under 18 years of age of a motorcycle or quadricycle operated on the streets or highways of this state shall wear protective headgear on the head. The headgear must meet standards established by the department of justice.

(b) This section does not apply to an operator and passenger of an autocycle as defined in 61-1-101 that is completely enclosed with a windshield, nonremovable doors, and a roof.

(2) A person may not operate a motorcycle upon a highway in the state unless all passengers under 18 years of age are in compliance with subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-105.1(1); amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Riding on motorcycles, 61-8-359.
Violation of motorcycle requirements — penalty, 61-9-518.

61-9-418. Motorcycle and quadricycle noise suppression devices — motorcycle and quadricycle spark arrester. (1) All motorcycles or quadricycles operated on the streets and highways of this state must be equipped at all times with noise suppression devices, including an exhaust muffler, in good working order and in constant operation. In addition, all motorcycles and quadricycles operating on streets and highways must meet the following noise decibel limitations, on the standard A scale, to be measured at 50 feet from the closest point to the motorcycle or quadricycle:

(a) any cycle manufactured prior to 1970 .... 92 db(A)
(b) any cycle manufactured after 1969 but prior to 1973 .... 88 db(A)
(c) any cycle manufactured after 1972 but prior to 1975 .... 86 db(A)
(d) any cycle manufactured after 1974 but prior to 1978 .... 80 db(A)
(e) any cycle manufactured after 1977 but prior to 1988 .... 75 db(A)
(f) any cycle manufactured after 1987 .... 70 db(A)

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a motorcycle or quadricycle may be operated off of a highway on public lands only if the motorcycle's or quadricycle's noise emissions do not exceed 96 db(A), using test procedures established by the society of automotive engineers under standard J-1287.

(b) The noise limitations in subsection (2)(a) do not apply to motorcycles or quadricycles that are operated for special events permitted on closed courses by a state entity or local government.

(c) A motorcycle or quadricycle may not be operated off of a highway unless it is equipped with an adequate spark arrester to prevent the escape of sparks or other burning material from the motorcycle's or quadricycle's engine.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-105.1(2); amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 516, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 2007.

61-9-419. "Properly restrained" defined. As used in 61-9-420 through 61-9-423, "properly restrained" means fastened in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the system that permits the system to act as a body restraint, but does not mean a system in which the only body restraint is a safety belt of the type required by 61-9-409.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Seatbelts required in new vehicles, 61-9-409.

61-9-420. Child safety restraint systems — standards — exemptions. (1) Each motor vehicle passenger who is under 6 years of age and weighs less than 60 pounds must be transported and properly restrained in a child safety restraint. The child safety restraint must be appropriate for the height and weight of the child as indicated by manufacturer standards.

(2) The department shall by rule establish standards in compliance with 61-9-419 through 61-9-423 and applicable federal standards for approved types of child safety restraint systems.

(3) The department may by rule exempt from the requirements of subsection (1) a child who because of a physical or medical condition or body size cannot be placed in a child safety restraint.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Motor vehicle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-421. Certain vehicles exempt. Section 61-9-420 is not applicable to a vehicle that:

(1) is a motorbus, schoolbus, taxicab, moped, quadricycle, or motorcycle or is not required to be equipped with safety belts under 49 CFR 571 as it reads on January 1, 1984; or

(2) has a seating capacity as designated by the manufacturer of two persons and there are two persons 4 years of age or older in the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 516, L. 1985.

Cross-References

School bus defined, 20-10-101, 61-8-102.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.
Motor-driven cycle defined, 61-1-101.
Quadricycle defined, 61-1-101.
Bicycle defined, 61-8-102.

61-9-422. Evidence admissible without presumption of negligence. Evidence of compliance or failure to comply with 61-9-420 is admissible in any civil action for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use or operation of a motor vehicle, but failure to comply with 61-9-420 does not alone constitute negligence.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.

61-9-423. Penalty. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), violation of 61-9-420 is punishable by a fine of not more than $100.

(2) The fine provided for in subsection (1) must be waived if proof of acquisition of an appropriate child safety restraint is presented within 7 days of the violation to the office of the charging officer and there has been no previous dismissal of a violation of 61-9-420 under this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 177, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-9-424 and 61-9-425 reserved.

61-9-426. Air-conditioning equipment — use of flammable refrigerant prohibited. (1) Air-conditioning equipment must be maintained with due regard for the safety of the occupants of the vehicle, service technicians, and the public.

(2) Air-conditioning equipment may contain only refrigerant that has been included in the list published by the United States environmental protection agency as a safe alternative motor vehicle air-conditioning substitute for chlorofluorocarbon-12 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7671k(c).

(3) A person may not equip or maintain a motor vehicle or special mobile equipment with air-conditioning equipment or refrigerants that do not comply with the requirements of this section.

(4) As used in 61-9-427 and this section, "air-conditioning equipment" means mechanical, belt-driven, vapor compression refrigerant equipment that is used to cool the driver's compartment or passenger compartment of a motor vehicle or special mobile equipment.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 418, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 223, Ch. 542, L. 2005.**

61-9-427. Air-conditioning equipment — sale prohibited. (1) Refrigerant not allowed to be used pursuant to 61-9-426 may not be sold for use in motor vehicles in Montana.

(2) Motor vehicles and special mobile equipment with air-conditioning equipment that has refrigerants not allowed in 61-9-426, if installed prior to April 18, 2003, are not subject to any penalties provided for under Title 61, chapter 9.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 418, L. 2003.**

61-9-428. Window tinting and sunscreening — waiver — conditions. The highway patrol or a local law enforcement agency may grant a waiver of the standards of 61-9-405(4) for reasons of safety or security or for medical reasons based on an affidavit signed by a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102. The waiver must be in writing and must include the vehicle identification number, registration number, or other description to clearly identify the motor vehicle to which the waiver applies and the date issued, the name of the owner of the vehicle, the reason for granting the waiver, the dates the waiver is effective, and the signature of the law enforcement officer granting the waiver. The highway patrol or the local law enforcement agency shall keep a copy of the waiver until the waiver expires.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 777, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 242, L. 2007.**

61-9-429. Window tinting and sunscreening — penalty. (1) A person who owns or operates a motor vehicle in violation of 61-9-405(4) is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

(2) A person who applies a sunscreening material or a glass-plastic glazing material in a manner that results in a motor vehicle having a window that violates the requirements of 61-9-405(4) is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable as provided in 46-18-212.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 777, L. 1991.**

61-9-430. Bumpers. (1) A motor vehicle of less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or rating registered in Montana, except a motorcycle, a quadricycle, a motor-driven cycle, or a farm tractor, must be equipped with a front bumper and, unless the vehicle is equipped with work-performing features that make installation impractical or unnecessary, with a rear bumper.

(2) This section does not apply to a street rod, as defined in 61-1-101, vehicles not originally equipped with front or rear bumpers, or vehicles for which bumpers were not required by federal law or regulation at the time of manufacture.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 431, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 458, L. 2005.**

61-9-431. Use of warning signs, flares, reflectors, lanterns, and flag persons. (1) The operator of a commercial tow truck, in compliance with the requirements of 61-8-906 and 61-8-907, shall, when rendering assistance at a hazard on the highway that necessitates the obstruction of a portion or all of the roadway exclusive of the berm or shoulder, place at least two warning signs as required in this section as soon as is practicable under the circumstances. Flag persons and cones may be used to augment the warning signs.

(2) Highway warning signs must be of a uniform type, with dimensions of 3 x 3 feet, lettering 5 inches high, and reflectorized orange or reflectorized fluorescent pink background and black border, as prescribed by the department. The signs must be designed to be visible both during the day and at night. The warning signs must bear the words "accident ahead", "emergency vehicle ahead", "lane closed ahead", "road closed ahead", "wreck ahead", "tow truck ahead", or "wrecker ahead", as prescribed by the department.

(3) The operator of a commercial tow truck used for the purpose of rendering assistance at a hazard on the highway that necessitates the obstruction of a portion of the roadway shall place a highway warning sign as required in subsection (2):

(a) in an area in which the posted speed limit is 45 miles an hour or less, not less than 600 feet in advance of the hazard and an equal distance to the rear of the hazard; and

(b) in an area in which the posted speed limit is more than 45 miles an hour or no speed limit is posted, 1,000 feet in advance of the hazard, except on a divided highway where the hazard does not cause disruption of traffic traveling on the opposite side of the divided highway, and an equal distance to the rear of the hazard.

(4) A local government unit may adopt an ordinance exempting an operator of a commercial tow truck from the requirements of subsection (2) within the limits of an incorporated city or town.

(5) When a hazard exists on the highway during the hours of darkness, the operator of a commercial tow truck called to render assistance shall place warning signs upon the highway as prescribed in this section and shall also place at least one red flare, red lantern, or warning light or reflector in close proximity to each warning sign.

(6) A violation of warning signs placed as provided in subsection (3) is considered reckless endangerment of a highway worker, as provided in 61-8-389(2), and is punishable as provided in 61-8-715.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 520, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 352, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 379, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 567, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 567, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-9-432. Low-speed and medium-speed electric vehicles — required equipment. (1) Low-speed electric vehicles and medium-speed electric vehicles, as defined in 61-1-101, must be equipped with:

(a) headlamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, taillamps, and stop lamps;

(b) three red reflectors, two of which must be placed on each side as far to the rear of the vehicle as practicable, and one of which must be placed on the rear of the vehicle;

(c) an exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mirror mounted on the passenger's side of the vehicle or an interior mirror;

(d) a parking brake;

(e) a windshield that conforms to the federal motor vehicle safety standard provided in 49 CFR 571.205; and

(f) a seatbelt assembly that conforms to the federal motor vehicle safety standard provided in 49 CFR 571.209.

(2) A medium-speed electric vehicle must be equipped with a roll bar, roll cage, or crush-proof body design.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 233, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 209, L. 2011.

61-9-433 and 61-9-434 reserved.

61-9-435. Exhaust noise limitation. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that emits a noise in excess of 95 decibels, as measured by the society of automotive engineers' standard j1169 (May 1998).

(2) A person charged with violating this section may not be convicted if the person had reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle was not operated in violation of the standard in subsection (1).

(3) This section does not apply to a motorcycle or quadricycle that is subject to 61-9-418.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 329, L. 2007.

61-9-436. Certain vehicles to carry tire traction devices during winter months. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), from October 1 through April 30, a person operating a motor truck of 26,001 GVW or greater towing a trailer on a mountain pass or on a similar stretch of highway designated by the department of transportation as a place where traction control devices are potentially required shall carry in the vehicle approved traction control devices prescribed by the department.

(b) The requirement of subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a vehicle with four-wheel drive.

(2) A person who violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of $225 for a first offense and not less than $225 or more than $500 for subsequent offenses.

(3) The department may adopt administrative rules to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

61-9-437. Airbag fraud prohibition. (1) A person may not knowingly:

(a) import, manufacture, sell, offer for sale, install, or reinstall in a motor vehicle a counterfeit supplemental restraint system component, a nonfunctional airbag, or an object that does not comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, 49 CFR 571.208, as of February 12, 2023, for the make, model, and year of the motor vehicle;

(b) sell, offer for sale, install, or reinstall in a motor vehicle a device that causes a motor vehicle's diagnostic system to inaccurately indicate that the motor vehicle is equipped with a properly functioning airbag; or

(c) sell, lease, trade, or transfer a motor vehicle if the person knows that a counterfeit supplemental restraint system component, a nonfunctional airbag, or an object that does not comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, 49 CFR 571.208, as of February 12, 2023, for the make, model, and year of the motor vehicle has been installed as part of the motor vehicle's restraint system.

(2) A person who violates this section is subject to the penalties provided in 61-9-522.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Airbag" means a motor vehicle inflatable occupant restraint system device that is part of a supplemental restraint system.

(b) "Counterfeit supplemental restraint system component" means a replacement supplemental restraint system component, including but not limited to an airbag, that displays a mark identical to, or substantially similar to, the genuine mark of a motor vehicle manufacturer or a supplier of parts to the manufacturer of a motor vehicle without authorization from that manufacturer or supplier, respectively.

(c) "Nonfunctional airbag" means a replacement airbag that meets any of the following criteria:

(i) the airbag was previously deployed or damaged;

(ii) the airbag has an electric fault that is detected by the vehicle's airbag diagnostic system when the installation procedure is completed and the vehicle is returned to the customer who requested the work to be performed or when ownership is intended to be transferred;

(iii) the airbag includes a part or object, including a supplemental restraint system component, that is installed in a motor vehicle to mislead the owner or operator of the motor vehicle into believing that a functional airbag has been installed; or

(iv) the airbag is subject to the prohibitions of 49 U.S.C. 30120(j), as of February 12, 2023.

(d) "Supplemental restraint system" means a passive inflatable motor vehicle occupant crash protection system designed for use in conjunction with a seat belt assembly as defined in 49 CFR 571.209. A supplemental restraint system includes one or more airbags and all components required to ensure that an airbag works as designed by the vehicle manufacturer including both of the following:

(i) the airbag operates as designed in the event of a crash; and

(ii) the airbag is designed to meet federal motor vehicle safety standards for the specific make, model, and year of the vehicle in which it is or will be installed.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 539, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 5
Enforcement — Penalties

Part Cross-References

Motor carriers safety — enforcement by highway patrol, 44-1-1005.

Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-9-501. Inspections by officers of department. (1) The department or its agents may at any time upon reasonable cause to believe that a vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law or that its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair require the driver of the vehicle to stop and submit the vehicle to an inspection and test as may be appropriate.

(2) In the event the vehicle and its equipment are found to be in safe condition and in full compliance with the law, the officer making the inspection may issue to the driver an official certificate of inspection and approval of the vehicle specifying those parts or equipment that have been inspected and approved.

(3) In the event the vehicle is found to be in unsafe condition or any required part or equipment is not present or is not in proper repair and adjustment, the officer shall give a written notice to the driver and shall send a copy to the department. The notice must specify the deficiencies and require that the vehicle be placed in safe condition and its equipment in proper repair and adjustment within 5 days, except as provided in subsection (4).

(4) For the purpose of 61-9-321 only, the notice must require the engine compression brake device muffler be in proper repair and adjustment within 14 days.

History: En. Sec. 152, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-155; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Motor carriers safety — enforcement by Highway Patrol, 44-1-1005.

Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-9-502. Semiannual inspection of school buses. (1) The department shall perform the semiannual inspection of school buses, one of which shall be at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the school term, and reinspect the buses, if necessary, before the beginning of the school term.

(2) The department's inspection shall determine if the school buses meet the minimum standards for school buses as adopted by the board of public education.

History: En. 32-21-155.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-155.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

School bus defined, 20-10-101, 61-8-102.

School bus requirements, 20-10-102.

61-9-503. Owners and drivers to comply with inspection laws. (1) No person driving a vehicle may refuse to submit the vehicle to an inspection and test when required to do so by the department or an authorized officer or employee of the department.

(2) Every owner or driver, upon receiving a notice as provided in 61-9-501, shall comply and have the deficiencies corrected and forward notification of the correction to the department. In lieu of compliance with this subsection, the vehicle may not be operated, except as provided in subsection (3).

(3) No person may operate any vehicle after receiving notice except as may be necessary to return the vehicle to the residence or place of business of the owner or driver, if within a distance of 20 miles, or to a garage until the vehicle and its equipment have been placed in proper repair and adjustment and otherwise made to conform to the requirements of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 153, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-156; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 146, L. 2009.

61-9-504. Rules. The department is hereby empowered to make additional rules governing the use of safety equipment on motor vehicles, vehicles, and/or combination of vehicles, that is, trailer hitches, safety chains, mounts, tow bars, and other similar equipment as it shall deem advisable for the protection of the public.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-122(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-9-505 through 61-9-510 reserved.

61-9-511. Violation of chapter — penalty. (1) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless the violation is declared to be a felony.

(2) A person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter for which another penalty is not provided shall for a first conviction be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $100. For a second conviction within 1 year, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $200. Upon a third or subsequent

conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $500.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), failure to pay a fine imposed under this chapter is a civil contempt of the court. On failure of payment of a fine, the court may:

(a) order enforcement of the fine by execution in the manner provided in 25-13-204 and under the provisions of Title 25, chapter 13; or

(b) if the court finds that the person is unable to pay, order the person to perform community service.

(4) If property is not found in an amount necessary to satisfy the unpaid portion of the fine and if the court makes a written finding that community service is inappropriate, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail in the county in which the offense has been committed. The imprisonment shall be the number of days that the fine is divisible by the dollar amount of the incarceration credit contained in 46-18-403.

(5) Upon conviction, the court costs or any part of the court costs may be assessed against the defendant in the discretion of the court.

History: En. Sec. 154, Ch. 263, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-157; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 134, L. 1995.

Cross-References

County jails, Title 7, ch. 32, part 22.
Allowable court costs, Title 25, ch. 10, part 2.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-9-512. Violation of rules — penalty. (1) Any violation of any rules adopted by the department is a misdemeanor.

(2) A person convicted of a violation of any standard adopted pursuant to 61-10-154 shall be fined not less than $25 or more than $500 for the first offense and not less than $25 or more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

(3) The penalties provided in subsection (2) apply to any motor carrier that is a corporation subject to the standards adopted pursuant to 61-10-154. The penalties may be imposed against:

(a) a director or officer of the corporation;

(b) any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent, or person acting for or employed by the corporation; or

(c) any broker of property or officer, agent, or employee of the broker.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-122(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 366, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-9-513. Violation of general lighting requirement and slow-moving vehicle provisions — penalty. Any person violating the provisions of 61-9-216 or 61-9-415 shall be subject to penalty as provided in 61-9-511.

History: En. Sec. 127, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-130(d).

61-9-514. Unauthorized use of firefighter's private vehicle — penalty. Any person violating the provisions of 61-9-227 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-141.2.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Unauthorized use of motor vehicles, 45-6-308.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-9-515. Violations of provisions relating to fenders, splash aprons, or flaps — penalty. Any person violating any of the provisions of 61-9-407 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $25.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-149.1(c); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 40, L. 1991.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-9-516. Penalty for seatbelt violations. Any person who violates the provisions of 61-9-409 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed $100.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 115, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-150.3; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 431, L. 1997.

61-9-517. Violation of towing requirements — penalty. Any person violating any of the provisions of 61-9-416 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a penalty not to exceed $100.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-162.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-9-518. Violation of motorcycle or quadricycle requirements — penalty. (1) A person convicted of the violation of 61-9-417 shall be fined $5.

(2) A person convicted of the violation of 61-9-418 shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $100 for the first conviction. For a second conviction within 1 year, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $200. Upon a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction, the person shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $500.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-105.1(3), (4); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 40, L. 1991.

Cross-References
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Motorcycle defined, 61-1-101.

61-9-519. Violation of tire restrictions — penalty. A person violating 61-9-406 is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to penalty as provided in 61-9-511.

History: En. Sec. 146, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-149(e); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 40, L. 1991.

Cross-References
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-9-520. Violation of tire chain or traction device use — penalty. (1) A person violating the provisions of 61-9-406(6) and (7) is guilty of the nonmoving offense of failure to use chains or approved traction devices when required and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of:

(a) $250; or

(b) $750 when the result of the violation of this section is an incident that causes the closure of all lanes in one or both directions of a highway.

(2) A violation of 61-9-406(6) and (7) is not a misdemeanor subject to 45-2-101, 61-9-511, 61-9-512, or 61-9-519.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 448, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2021.

61-9-521. Violation of engine compression brake device provisions — penalty. A person who violates the provisions of 61-9-321 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed $500.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 357, L. 2003.

61-9-522. Airbag fraud penalty. A person who violates 61-9-437 is guilty of airbag fraud and upon conviction shall be fined not more than $1,000, imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 10
SIZE — WEIGHT — LOAD

Part 1 — Standards, Permits, and Fees

61-10-101. Standards of maximum dimensions, weights, etc.
61-10-102. Width — definitions.
61-10-103. Height.
61-10-104. Length — definitions.
61-10-105. Repealed.
61-10-106. Measuring distance between axles.
61-10-107. Maximum gross weight.
61-10-108. Reduction under special circumstances.
61-10-109. Operation without special permits prohibited.
61-10-110. Federal law.
61-10-111. Governor's authority to exempt vehicles from size and weight limits.
61-10-112 reserved.
61-10-113. Issuance of permits for overweight and oversize loads — interstate agreements.
61-10-114 through 61-10-120 reserved.
61-10-121. Permits for excess size and weight — exempt from environmental review — agents.
61-10-122. Discretion of issuer — conditions.
61-10-123. Haystack movers.
61-10-124. Special permits — fees.
61-10-125. Other fees.
61-10-126. Deposit of fees.
61-10-127. Permits issued to governmental entities.
61-10-128. When authorities may restrict right to use roadway.
61-10-129. Rules regarding overlength vehicles.
61-10-130. Custom combiner's special permit — fee — collection — distribution — not transferable.
61-10-131 through 61-10-140 reserved.
61-10-141. Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads — definition.
61-10-142. Display of permit.
61-10-143. Repealed.
61-10-144. Violation of standards — tolerance.
61-10-145. Penalties.
61-10-146. Special permits — misrepresentations and violations as misdemeanor.
61-10-147. Penalties for using highway when use is restricted.
61-10-148. Disposition of fines and forfeited bonds.
61-10-149 through 61-10-153 reserved.
61-10-154. Department of transportation to adopt motor carrier safety standards — enforcement — designation of peace officers — duties — violations.
61-10-155. Rulemaking authority.

Part 2 — Gross Vehicle Weight Licensing Requirements

61-10-201. Weight fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, and buses.
61-10-202. Repealed.
61-10-203. Repealed.
61-10-204. Repealed.
61-10-205. Repealed.
61-10-206. Special fees — certain farm vehicles.
61-10-207. Repealed.
61-10-208. Repealed.
61-10-209. Monthly payment — quarterly payment — penalty for failure to pay fee.
61-10-210. Repealed.
61-10-211. Fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, trailers, and semitrailers from other states.
61-10-212. Temporary trip permits showing payment of fees — display.
61-10-213. Time for payment of fees by nonresidents — disposition.
61-10-214. Exemptions.
61-10-215. Additional tax by municipalities prohibited — exceptions.
61-10-216 through 61-10-220 reserved.
61-10-221. Purpose of fees.
61-10-222. Time for payment of fees.
61-10-223. Expiration date.
61-10-224. GVW license transferable.
61-10-225. Disposition of fees collected by county treasurer.
61-10-226. Deposit of state highway money.
61-10-227. Blank forms furnished to county treasurers.
61-10-228 through 61-10-230 reserved.
61-10-231. Enforcement.
61-10-232. Violation — penalty.

61-10-233. Excess weight — penalties.
61-10-234 through 61-10-240 reserved.
61-10-241. Terminated.

Parts 3 through 10 reserved

Part 11 — Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement

61-10-1101. Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement — enactment and text.

Chapter Cross-References

Criminal jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, 3-10-303.
Weights, measures, standards, and labeling, Title 30, ch. 12.
Enforcement of motor carriers law, 44-1-1005.
Regulation of motor carriers, Title 69, ch. 12.

Part 1
Standards, Permits, and Fees

61-10-101. Standards of maximum dimensions, weights, etc. The standards provided for in 61-10-102 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 govern the maximum dimensions, weights, and other characteristics of motor vehicles operating over the highways in the state to the exclusion of other standards or other requirements respecting the subject matter.

History: **En. 32-1123.1 by Sec. 12, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Gross weight fees on motortrucks and truck tractors, 61-10-201.

61-10-102. Width — definitions. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a vehicle, including a bus, unloaded or with load, may not have a total outside width in excess of 102 inches. This width for buses is allowed only on paved highways 20 feet or more in width.

(2) (a) Subsection (1) does not apply to an implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay that is moved or propelled upon the highway during daylight hours for a distance of not more than 100 miles if the movement is incidental to the farming operations of the owner of the implement of husbandry or the vehicle used for hauling hay. If the implement or vehicle is more than 12½ feet wide, it must be preceded by flag vehicle escorts to warn other highway users. This restriction does not apply to dual-wheel tractors under 15 feet overall width that are used in farming operations or to movement on a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner of an implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay. Lights that meet the requirements of 61-9-219(4) must be displayed on the rear of the implement of husbandry or vehicle used for hauling hay. However, if the highway passes through a hazardous area, the implements or vehicles must be preceded and followed by flag vehicle escorts unless the movement of the implements or vehicles is restricted to a county road within 100 miles of the farming operation of the owner.

(b) An implement of husbandry or a vehicle used for hauling hay that exceeds 16½ feet in width and that is traveling on an interstate or a four-lane highway must be followed by a flag vehicle escort.

(c) A commercial vehicle that is hauling hay but does not qualify under subsection (2)(a) may be granted a permit subject to the provisions of 61-10-121 through 61-10-127.

(d) Subsection (1) does not apply to a commercial hay grinder moved or propelled upon the highway during daylight hours for a distance of not more than 100 miles if the movement is incidental to operations of the commercial hay grinder. A commercial hay grinder exceeding 102 inches in width must have a permit issued under 61-10-124. If the commercial hay grinder is more than 12½ feet wide, it must be preceded by flag vehicle escorts to warn other highway users. Lights that meet the requirements of 61-9-219(4) must be displayed on the rear of the commercial hay grinder. Movement of a commercial hay grinder that does not exceed 138 inches in width may occur on any day of the week, including holidays, and is restricted to movement during daylight hours. Movement of a commercial hay grinder may not exceed the posted speed limit, including the speed limit on an interstate highway.

(3) (a) The width of a recreational vehicle, as defined in 61-1-101, and a camper, as defined in 61-1-101, that is being operated for noncommercial purposes may exceed 102 inches if:

(i) the excess width is attributable to recreational vehicle or camper appurtenances that do not extend beyond the exterior rearview mirrors of the recreational vehicle, the camper, a vehicle being towed by the recreational vehicle, or the motor vehicle providing motive power; and

(ii) the rearview mirrors extend only the distance necessary to provide the appropriate field of view for the vehicle before the recreational vehicle or camper appurtenances are attached.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "recreational vehicle or camper appurtenances" means an awning and its support hardware or any appendage that is intended to be an integral part of the recreational vehicle or camper and that is installed by the manufacturer or dealer.

(4) A safety device that the department determines by rule adopted pursuant to 61-9-504 to be necessary for safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles is not included in the calculation of width provided in subsection (1).

(5) Except as provided in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b), a rear flag vehicle escort is not required for a vehicle that exceeds 12½ feet in width, that is hauling or towing an implement of husbandry, construction equipment, or forestry equipment, and that is operating under this section or as authorized by special permit issued under 61-10-121 through 61-10-125 if the vehicle is operating at highway speed or with the flow of traffic.

(6) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Construction equipment" means any vehicle, machine, or attachment designed or adapted for and used in construction, heavy construction, highway construction, and remodeling work.

(b) "Flag vehicle" means a vehicle equipped as required by law or by department of transportation rule to warn or guide vehicular traffic. When not being operated as a flag vehicle, signs must be removed.

History: En. 32-1123.3 by Sec. 14, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.3; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 449, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 241, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 224, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Highway patrol — enforcement of motor carriers law, 44-1-1005.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.
Flag person defined, 61-8-102.

61-10-103. Height. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a vehicle, unladen or with load, may not exceed a height of 14 feet.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an implement of husbandry or a vehicle, unladen or with load, that does not exceed a height of 15 feet 6 inches if:

(a) the implement of husbandry or vehicle is transporting hay, straw, or both for a distance not more than 25 miles and is incidental to farming operations; and

(b) the implement of husbandry or the vehicle will not encounter overhead obstacles 17 feet from the ground or lower while in transit.

History: En. 32-1123.4 by Sec. 15, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.4; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2019.

61-10-104. Length — definitions. (1) A single truck, bus, or self-propelled vehicle, unladen or with load, may not have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of 55 feet.

(2) (a) When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer may not exceed 53 feet in length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. When used in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, the semitrailer and trailer or the two semitrailers may not exceed 28½ feet each in length or 61 feet in combined trailer length, excluding those portions not designed to carry a load, except as provided by 61-10-124. Truck tractor-semitrailer,

truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer, and truck tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combinations are not subject to a combination length limit.

(b) (i) A stinger-steered boat transporter may not exceed 80 feet in length plus a maximum 4 feet of front overhang and 6 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124.

(ii) A stinger-steered automobile transporter may not exceed 80 feet in length plus a maximum 4 feet of front overhang and 6 feet of rear overhang, except as provided by 61-10-124.

(c) All other combinations of vehicles may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet, except as provided by 61-10-124. If the combination consists of more than two units, the rear units of the combination must be equipped with breakaway brakes.

(3) A motor vehicle may not tow more than one motor vehicle, and a motor vehicle may not draw more than three motor vehicles attached to it by the triple saddle-mount method (that is, by mounting the front wheels of one vehicle on the bed of another, leaving only the rear wheels of the vehicle in contact with the roadway), and this combination may not have a combination length in excess of 75 feet.

(4) A passenger vehicle or truck of less than 2,000 pounds "manufacturer's rated capacity" may not tow more than one trailer or semitrailer, and this combination may not have a length in excess of 65 feet.

(5) (a) The length of a vehicle combination consisting of a truck or truck tractor and one pole trailer or semitrailer hauling raw logs may not exceed 75 feet in overall length. As used in this subsection (5)(a), the term "length" means the total length of the vehicle combination beginning at the front of the front bumper of the truck or truck tractor and extending to the most distant end of the logs being hauled. A term permit for an overlength vehicle combination, as provided in 61-10-124(2), does not apply to the vehicle combination described in this subsection (5)(a). A vehicle combination exceeding 75 feet must have a trip permit.

(b) The maximum overhang of any log may not exceed 15 feet, except by special, single-trip permit. Overhang is measured from the center of the rear-most axle to the most distant end of the logs being hauled.

(c) The provisions in subsections (5)(a) and (5)(b) do not apply to a vehicle combination hauling utility poles.

(6) As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Axle" means a transverse beam that is the common axis of rotation of one or more wheels and that, to receive credit for allowable total gross loading, must be capable of continuously transmitting a proportionate share of the total gross load to the roadway when the axle is in operation.

(b) "Combination length" means the total length of a combination of vehicles, such as a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination, measured from the front bumper of the motor vehicle to the back bumper or rear extremity of the last trailer, including the connection tongues.

(c) "Combined trailer length" means the total length of a combination of trailers measured from the front of the first trailer, or the front bunk on a pole trailer, to the back of the last trailer, including the connection tongues and rear overhang.

(d) "Length", except as provided in subsection (5)(a), means the total longitudinal dimension of a single vehicle, a trailer, or a semitrailer. The length of a trailer or semitrailer is measured from the front of the cargo-carrying unit to its rear, exclusive of safety or energy efficiency devices, air-conditioning units, air compressors, flexible fender extensions, splash and spray suppressant devices, bolsters, mechanical fastening devices, and hydraulic lift gates.

(e) "Rocky Mountain double" means a combination of vehicles that includes a truck tractor pulling a long semitrailer and a shorter trailer.

(f) "Steering axle" means an axle that pivots at the hub to allow the wheel to follow the travel of the vehicle. A steering axle is capable of being steered but need not always be connected to a steering wheel.

(g) "Stinger-steered automobile transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed and used for the transportation of vehicles.

(h) "Stinger-steered boat transporter" means a truck tractor-semitrailer combination that has a fifth wheel on a drop frame located behind and below the rear axle of the truck tractor and that is designed and used for the transportation of assembled boats or boat hulls.

History: En. 32-1123.5 by Sec. 16, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.5; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 672, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 225, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Dolly or converter gear defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Lamp or flag on projecting load, 61-9-213.

61-10-105. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 236, L. 1995.

History: En. 32-1123.6 by Sec. 17, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.6; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1981.

61-10-106. Measuring distance between axles. The distance between axles shall be measured to the nearest foot. When a fractional measurement is exactly one-half foot, the next larger whole number shall be used.

History: En. 32-1123.8 by Sec. 19, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.8.

Cross-References

Systems of weights and measures, 30-12-102.
Axle defined, 61-10-104.

61-10-107. *(Temporary)* **Maximum gross weight.** (1) (a) An axle may not carry a load in excess of 20,000 pounds, and no two consecutive axles more than 40 inches or less than 96 inches apart may carry a load in excess of 34,000 pounds. An axle load is the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. For purposes of this section, axles 40 inches or less apart are considered to be a single axle. Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle, group of axles, or combination of vehicles must be determined by the formula:

$$W = 500((LN/(N - 1)) + 12N + 36)$$

in which W equals gross weight, L equals wheelbase in feet, and N equals number of axles, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more. The maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle may not exceed the weight limits adopted by the department. The department shall adopt rules for weight limits based upon the most recent version of 23 CFR, part 658, appendix c, for vehicles operating in Montana.

(b) A vehicle traveling on U.S. highway 93 from the border between Canada and the United States to 10 miles south of the border or on Montana highway 16 from the border between Canada and the United States to 20 miles south of the border is subject to the specific maximum allowable gross weight limit provided in rules adopted by the department but is not subject to maximum gross weight limits determined by the formula in subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) Notwithstanding a vehicle's conformance with the requirements of subsection (1), except for the steering axle, all axles weighing over 11,000 pounds must have at least four tires or have wide-base tires. The maximum load on an axle, other than a steering axle, equipped with wide-base tires is limited to 500 pounds for each inch of tire width.

(b) The provisions of subsection (2)(a) do not apply to passenger buses.

(c) For the purposes of this section, wide-base tires are tires that are 14 or more inches in nominal width. The maximum tire weight limit is computed for wide-base tires based on the number of inches shown on the tire marking, or if the tire marking is shown by metric size, the tire weight limit is computed by conversion of the metric size.

(3) This section does not apply to highways that are a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways (as referred to in 23 U.S.C. 127) when application of this section would prevent this state from receiving federal funds for highway purposes. *(Terminates on occurrence of contingency—sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 2005.)*

61-10-107. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Maximum gross weight.** (1) An axle may not carry a load in excess of 20,000 pounds, and no two consecutive axles more than 40 inches or less than 96 inches apart may carry a load in excess of 34,000 pounds. An axle load is the total load transmitted to the road by all wheels whose centers are included between two parallel transverse vertical planes 40 inches apart, extending across the full width of the vehicle. For purposes of this section, axles 40 inches or less apart are considered to be a single axle. The maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle, group of axles, or combination of vehicles must be determined by the formula:

$$W = 500((LN/(N - 1)) + 12N + 36)$$

in which W equals gross weight, L equals wheelbase in feet, and N equals number of axles, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds each if the overall distance between the first and last axles of the consecutive sets of tandem axles is 36 feet or more. The maximum gross weight allowed on a vehicle may not exceed the weight limits adopted by the department. The department shall adopt rules for weight limits based upon the most recent version of 23 CFR, part 658, appendix c, for vehicles operating in Montana.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding a vehicle's conformance with the requirements of subsection (1), except for the steering axle, all axles weighing over 11,000 pounds must have at least four tires or have wide-base tires. The maximum load on an axle, other than a steering axle, equipped with wide-base tires is limited to 500 pounds for each inch of tire width.

(b) The provisions of subsection (2)(a) do not apply to passenger buses.

(c) For the purposes of this section, wide-base tires are tires that are 14 or more inches in nominal width. The maximum tire weight limit is computed for wide-base tires based on the number of inches shown on the tire marking, or if the tire marking is shown by metric size, the tire weight limit is computed by conversion of the metric size.

(3) This section does not apply to highways that are a part of the national system of interstate and defense highways (as referred to in 23 U.S.C. 127) when application of this section would prevent this state from receiving federal funds for highway purposes.

History: En. 32-1123.7 by Sec. 18, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.7; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 392, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 487, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 474, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 399, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 2015.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 2, Ch. 342, L. 2005, provided: "(1) If the department of transportation is notified by the federal highway administration that the exemption provided in [section 1(1)(b)] [61-10-107(1)(b)] would result in a sanction of federal highway funds, [this act] is void.

(2) The department of transportation shall notify the code commissioner if it receives notification from the federal highway administration, as provided in subsection (1), and shall indicate the date that notification was received."

Cross-References

Classification — highways and roads, 60-1-201.

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

Axle defined, 61-10-104.

61-10-108. Reduction under special circumstances. The maximum axle and axle group loads stated in 61-10-107 are subject to reasonable reduction in the discretion of the department of transportation during periods when road subgrades have been weakened by water saturation or other causes.

History: En. 32-1123.9 by Sec. 20, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.9; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 1995.

61-10-109. Operation without special permits prohibited. The operation of vehicles or combinations of vehicles having dimensions or weights in excess of the maximum limits specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-108 is permitted only if authorized by special permit issued under 61-10-121 through 61-10-125 by the department of transportation or its agents or the highway patrol.

History: En. 32-1123.10 by Sec. 21, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.10; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1.

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

61-10-110. Federal law. Sections 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-109 do not authorize, without a permit issued as provided by law, the operation of a combination of vehicles having a gross weight, axle load, or size in excess of that authorized in those sections or the operation on the national system of interstate and defense highways of a combination of vehicles having a gross weight or size in excess of the maximum weight and size permitted by law in this state before July 1, 1956, or permitted by federal law or regulation. If federal law allows establishment of weight and size limits in excess of the allowable limits permitted in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-109, without penalty or denial of federal funds for highway purposes, the department of transportation may, by permit designating highway routing, authorize the movement on highways under its jurisdiction of vehicles or combinations of vehicles of a weight or size in excess of the limits provided for in those sections, but within the limits necessary to qualify for federal-aid highway funds.

History: En. 32-1123.11 by Sec. 22, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.11; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 236, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Federal-aid highway funds, Title 60, ch. 3, part 1.

Gross weight fees on motortrucks and truck tractors, 61-10-201.

61-10-111. Governor's authority to exempt vehicles from size and weight limits. (1) The governor may, through executive order, exempt vehicles from the size and weight limits imposed under this part:

(a) upon a request of the director of the department of transportation and any other agency involved in the need to move oversize or overweight vehicles on the highway during emergency circumstances;

(b) for a specified, limited period of time; and

(c) during emergency circumstances and to meet unusual conditions to ensure the general welfare of the public.

(2) The agency director who requests the executive order may specify the areas in which the exemption is in effect, the duration of the exemption, the types of vehicles to be exempted, and any other appropriate conditions of the order.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "emergency circumstances" means conditions brought about by a weather event or a natural or other occurrence for which the movement of vehicles that may exceed size and weight limits is necessary for responding to the event or occurrence or for moving supplies, agricultural or other products, or equipment in a manner that is necessary because of the event or occurrence.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 2001.

61-10-112 reserved.

61-10-113. Issuance of permits for overweight and oversize loads — interstate agreements. The department of transportation may enter into agreements with other states to provide for the issuance of permits for overweight and oversize loads, as authorized by the laws and rules of each state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

61-10-114 through 61-10-120 reserved.

61-10-121. Permits for excess size and weight — exempt from environmental review — agents. (1) (a) Upon application and with good cause shown, the department of transportation, or its agent under subsection (4), and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may issue a special permit authorizing the applicant to operate or move a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing of a size or weight exceeding the maximum specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 upon a highway under the jurisdiction of and for the maintenance of which the body granting the permit is responsible. However, only the department may issue permits for movement of a vehicle or combination of vehicles carrying built-up or reducible loads in excess of 9 feet in width or exceeding the length, height, or weight specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110. This permit must be issued in the public interest. A carrier receiving this permit must have public liability and property damage insurance for the protection of the traveling public as a whole.

(b) The department may issue oversize permits to dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery. The permits may be transferred from unit to unit by the dealer for the fee set forth in 61-10-124. These oversize permits may not restrict dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery from traveling on a Saturday or Sunday and expire on December 31 of each year, with no grace period. For the purposes of this section, a dealer in implements of husbandry or self-propelled machinery must be a resident of the state. A post-office box number is not a permanent address under this section.

(2) The applicant for a special permit shall specifically describe the powered vehicle or towing vehicle and generally describe the type of vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing to be operated or moved and the particular state highways over which the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing is to be moved and whether the permit is required for a single trip or for continuous operation.

(3) Issuance of a permit pursuant to this section is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when existing roads through existing rights-of-way are used.

(4) The department may enter into a contract with a private party to act as an agent of the department for the purpose of issuing, in writing, a special permit allowed under this section.

(5) This section does not authorize a local authority to require a fee and a permit for the movement of a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing of a size exceeding the maximum specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 on a highway that is under the jurisdiction of an entity other than the local authority.

History: En. 32-1127.1 by Sec. 27, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.1; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 595, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 173, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of motor vehicles, 7-14-4103.
No authority for municipality to require fee and permit for oversize vehicles, 7-14-4116.
Casualty insurance, Title 33, ch. 23.
Mandatory liability protection, Title 61, ch. 6, part 3.
Offenses for which arrest authorized, 61-12-206.

61-10-122. Discretion of issuer — conditions. The department of transportation or local authority may issue or withhold a special permit at its discretion or, if the permit is issued, limit the number of trips or establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing described may be operated on the public highways indicated, or otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing when necessary to assure against damage to the road foundation, surfaces, or structures or safety of traffic, and may require an undertaking or other security considered necessary to compensate for injury to a roadway or road structure. During harvest no permit may be denied to oversize harvest or harvest-related agricultural machinery solely on the grounds that the travel takes place on a Saturday or Sunday. No permit may be denied to dealers in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery solely on the grounds that the travel may take place on a Saturday or Sunday.

History: En. 32-1127.2 by Sec. 28, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.2; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 595, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.
Transportation of vehicles, Title 61, ch. 4, part 3.

61-10-123. Haystack movers. (1) A self-propelled vehicle used only for the purpose of moving haystacks on a commercial basis is subject to 61-10-121 through 61-10-127, except as provided in subsections (2) through (8).

(2) The vehicle, loaded or unloaded, may not exceed 55 feet in length or 20 feet in width.

(3) A single load may not be moved on the vehicle a distance greater than 75 miles from the point of origin on public roads.

(4) When the vehicle is hauling a load, it must be accompanied by two pilot cars. Each car must be equipped with a flashing warning light, a red flag, and a sign with the words "wide load" written on it. One car must precede the vehicle by not less than 100 yards or more than one-fourth mile, and one car must follow the vehicle at a distance not less than 100 yards or

more than one-fourth mile. The following pilot car must be in radio contact with the vehicle at all times.

(5) The speed of the vehicle must be reasonable and proper but not in excess of 35 miles per hour.

(6) The vehicle may be operated only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

(7) The vehicle may not be operated on an interstate or a controlled-access highway as defined in 61-8-102.

(8) A term or blanket permit may be issued for the vehicle.

History: En. 32-1127.4 by Sec. 30, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.4; amd. Sec. 226, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Controlled-access highway defined, 61-8-102.

Special speed limitations, 61-8-313.

61-10-124. *(Temporary)* **Special permits — fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2)(d) and (3), in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee of $10 for each trip permit and a fee of $75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (2)(h), (3), and (4), term or blanket permits may not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15 feet; an overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or an overheight vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit determined by the department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these dimensions is limited to trip permits. Except as provided in subsection (2)(g), a Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer length. A Rocky Mountain double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle combinations of more than two trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not permitted except as provided in subsections (3) and (4). Special permits for vehicle combinations may specify and special permits under subsections (3) and (4) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required equipment, speed, stability, operational procedures, and insurance.

(b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). This permit expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

(c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle is 80,000 pounds.

(d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length but does not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination, for travel only on interstate highways, as defined in 60-1-103, or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interstate highway interchange in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange. The fee for this permit is $125.

(e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer exceeds 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.

(f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for this permit is $125.

(ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be detached and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which a permit may be issued.

(iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (5)(b) is responsible for providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

(iv) For use as provided in subsection (5)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible loads.

(g) A Rocky Mountain double carrying baled hay may not exceed 88 feet of combined trailer length.

(h) A term permit may be issued for an overlength vehicle moving a mobile home or a manufactured home, as defined in 15-24-201, when the vehicle does not exceed 110 feet in length or 16 feet in width.

(3) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

(a) the combination may be operated only on interstate highways, as defined in 60-1-103, and on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interstate highway interchange only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

(b) a combination of vehicles powered by a cab-over or tilt-cab truck tractor or a truck may not exceed an overall length of 105 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang;

(c) a combination of vehicles powered by a conventional truck tractor may not exceed an overall length of 110 feet, inclusive of the front and rear bumpers and overhang;

(d) an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28½ feet in length and 102 inches in width;

(e) gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

(f) the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of $200 for a term permit or $20 for each trip permit;

(g) travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days, or seasonal periods; and

(h) the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is $200.

(4) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (3) for vehicle combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

(a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95 feet; and

(b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

(i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

(ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

(a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

(b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

(ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

(iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2003.)*

61-10-124. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Special permits — fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2)(d) and (3), in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee of $10 for each trip permit and a fee of $75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (2)(g), (3), and (4), term or blanket permits may not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15 feet; an overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or an overheight vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit determined by the department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these dimensions is limited to trip permits. A Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer length. A Rocky Mountain double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle combinations of more than two trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not permitted except as provided in subsections (3) and (4). Special permits for vehicle combinations may specify and special permits under subsections (3) and (4) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required equipment, speed, stability, operational procedures, and insurance.

(b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled machinery for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). This permit expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

(c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment of the fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle is 80,000 pounds.

(d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length but does not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination, for travel only on interstate highways, as defined in 60-1-103, or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interstate highway interchange in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange. The fee for this permit is $125.

(e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer exceeds 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.

(f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for this permit is $125.

(ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be detached and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of the machine or equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which a permit may be issued.

(iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (5)(b) is responsible for providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

(iv) For use as provided in subsection (5)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency response vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered nondivisible loads.

(g) A term permit may be issued for an overlength vehicle moving a mobile home or a manufactured home, as defined in 15-24-201, when the vehicle does not exceed 110 feet in length or 16 feet in width.

(3) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

(a) the combination may be operated only on interstate highways, as defined in 60-1-103, and on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interstate highway interchange only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the interchange.

(b) a combination of vehicles powered by a cab-over or tilt-cab truck tractor or a truck may not exceed an overall length of 105 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang;

(c) a combination of vehicles powered by a conventional truck tractor may not exceed an overall length of 110 feet, inclusive of the front and rear bumpers and overhang;

(d) an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28½ feet in length and 102 inches in width;

(e) gross weight fees under 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula in 61-10-107;

(f) the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of $200 for a term permit or $20 for each trip permit;

(g) travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific days, or seasonal periods; and

(h) the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is $200.

(4) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (3) for vehicle combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

(a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than 95 feet; and

(b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

(i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore, chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

(ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

(a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

(b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

(ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

(iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1987; (2) thru (4)En. 32-1127.3, 32-1127.5 by Secs. 29, 31, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.3, 32-1127.5(part); amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 595, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 487, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 474, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 437, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 672, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 621, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 2, Ch. 285, L. 2003, provided: "If the department of transportation receives notice that the increase in the combined trailer length that is allowed for a Rocky Mountain double carrying baled hay will threaten federal highway funding, then [this act] is void. The department shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

Cross-References

Interstate cooperative agreements for collection of taxes and fees, 60-2-311.

Implement of husbandry defined, 61-1-101.

Public highway defined, 61-1-101.

Transportation of vehicles, Title 61, ch. 4, part 3.

61-10-125. Other fees. (1) For a single trip permit for a load that is over the gross allowable load provided for by the formula in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed axle limits set forth in 61-10-107(1), the department of transportation shall charge for distances traveled:

(a) $10 for distances up to and including 100 miles;

(b) $30 for distances from 101 to 199 miles; and

(c) $50 for distances 200 miles and over.

(2) (a) Upon application, the department of transportation or its agent under 61-10-121(4) may issue a wintertime permit or a durational permit authorizing the applicant to operate a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or object exceeding by up to 10% the maximum weight limits specified in 61-10-106 through 61-10-110.

(b) (i) The nonrefundable fee for a wintertime permit is $50 for each vehicle. A wintertime permit is valid for 30 days or until March 7, whichever is earlier.

(ii) The nonrefundable fee for a durational permit is $150 for each vehicle. A durational permit is valid for the period between December 1 and March 7.

(3) (a) The department of transportation shall charge a fee of:

(i) $200 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(ii) $500 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 10,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(iii) $750 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 15,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(iv) $1,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 20,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no single axle exceeding 5,000 pounds in excess axle weight and no tandem axle exceeding 15,000 pounds in excess axle weight;

(v) $1,500 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 25,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation;

(vi) $2,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 30,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation;

(vii) $3,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 35,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation;

(viii) $4,000 for a term permit for a load that is in excess of the limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) but that does not exceed a total of 40,000 pounds in excess axle weight, with no axle or axle group exceeding the maximum weight allowed by a weight analysis conducted by the department of transportation.

(b) The fees provided in subsection (3)(a) are annual fees but may be prorated on a quarterly basis and may be paid quarterly, semiannually, or annually. However, if the fee is paid other than annually, there is an additional fee of $10 each time a fee is paid.

(c) A permit issued under this subsection (3) is valid for a period of no less than 1 calendar quarter and no more than 1 calendar year.

(d) The department of transportation or its agent may not issue a term permit for loads that exceed 10,000 pounds in excess axle weight unless the person applying for the term permit has obtained approval from the department of transportation, through a weight analysis, for the configuration of the vehicle.

(4) The department of transportation shall charge for a permit to move a load that exceeds the single axle, tandem axle, or axle group limits set forth in 61-10-107(1) the following fee based upon the sum of excess in axle or axle group weights:

Total Excess Axle Weight (pounds)	Calculated Cost of 25 Miles of Travel (dollars)
5,000	3.50
10,000	7.00
15,000	10.50
20,000	14.00
25,000	17.50
30,000	21.00
35,000	24.50
40,000	28.00
45,000	31.50

50,000	35.00
55,000	38.50
60,000	42.00
65,000	45.50
70,000	49.00
75,000	52.50
80,000	56.00
85,000	59.50
90,000	63.00
95,000	66.50
100,000	70.00
over 100,000	70.00 + 3.50 per 5,000 lbs. or part of 5,000 lbs. in excess of 100,000 lbs.

(5) For purposes of subsection (4):

(a) mileage must be rounded off in units of 25 miles and mileage in excess of a 25-mile increment must be assessed at the next higher 25-mile increment; and

(b) weight must be rounded off in 5,000-pound increments and weight in excess of a 5,000-pound increment must be assessed at the next higher 5,000-pound increment.

(6) A vehicle must be licensed to the maximum allowable weight authorized under 61-10-107 before an overweight permit may be issued.

History: En. 32-1127.5 by Sec. 31, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.5(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 571, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 71, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Interstate cooperative agreements for collection of taxes and fees, 60-2-311.

61-10-126. Deposit of fees. All fees collected under 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-125 must be forwarded to the department of transportation for deposit in the highway nonrestricted account provided for in 15-70-125.

History: En. 32-1127.10 by Sec. 36, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.10; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-10-127. Permits issued to governmental entities. Permits issued to the United States government, states, counties, cities, and their political subdivisions shall be issued without fee for a term beginning with the date of issuance and expiring December 31.

History: En. 32-1127.6 by Sec. 32, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.6.

Cross-References

Public-owned vehicles exempt from license or registration fees, 61-3-321.

61-10-128. When authorities may restrict right to use roadway. (1) A local authority may not alter the limitations provided in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 or substitute other limitations or requirements, except as provided in this section.

(2) The department of transportation by order, or a local road authority by ordinance or resolution, may prohibit the operation of or impose restrictions on the weight and speed of a vehicle traveling on a public highway under its respective jurisdiction and for which it is responsible for maintenance whenever the highway will be seriously damaged or destroyed by deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions, unless the use of vehicles on the highway is prohibited or the permissible vehicle weights and speed are reduced. The department of transportation or the authority that enacts the ordinance or resolution shall erect signs designating the department's order or the authority's ordinance or resolution at each end of that portion of the highway affected, and the order, ordinance, or resolution is not effective until the signs are erected. The department of transportation or the authority by ordinance or resolution may prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles or impose limitations on their weight on designated highways, subject to the provisions of subsection (3). These prohibitions and limitations must be designated by appropriate signs placed on the highways.

(3) Neither the department of transportation nor a local authority may prohibit the operation of or impose a restriction on the weight of a vehicle loaded with perishable seed potatoes or a vehicle loaded with fertilizer that is traveling on a public highway if:

(a) the vehicle is being operated within its legal licensed gross vehicle weight;

(b) the driver possesses a federal-state inspection certificate issued for the load or a bill of lading; and

(c) the vehicle takes the most direct route from the point of loading or point of unloading to the nearest nonrestricted road.

(4) Hay grinders and their towing units are exempt from weight limits imposed by the department of transportation under this section.

History: (1)En. 32-1123.12 by Sec. 23, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-1123.12, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 171, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1751.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-1128, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1123.12, 32-1128; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 518, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Municipal ordinances, 7-5-4201.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Traffic regulation provisions uniform throughout state — power of local authorities, 61-8-103.
Department of Transportation to sign all state highways, 61-8-203.
When local authorities may and shall alter limits, 61-8-310.
Powers of local authorities to regulate traffic, 61-12-101.

61-10-129. Rules regarding overlength vehicles. The department of transportation may adopt rules to implement 61-10-124 and may by rule prescribe standards for the qualifications of drivers operating special vehicle combinations under 61-10-124 and for the equipping and operation of such combinations to enhance highway traffic safety.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 474, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 672, L. 1991.

61-10-130. Custom combiner's special permit — fee — collection — distribution — not transferable. (1) In lieu of the taxes required by 15-24-301 and in lieu of motor vehicle license fees, gross vehicle weight fees, and overwidth, overlength, and overheight permits provided for in Title 61, a nonresident engaged in the business of custom combining who brings equipment into the state may pay a special permit fee of $40 for each unit. A unit includes:

(a) one truck suitable for hauling grain;

(b) one header trailer or one combine trailer; and

(c) pickup trucks and all other equipment, except combines, used by a nonresident and brought into the state as part of the nonresident's business of custom combining.

(2) In lieu of gross vehicle weight fees and overwidth, overlength, and overheight permits, Montana residents engaged in the business of custom combining may pay the annual farm gross vehicle weight fees and a special permit fee of $20 for each unit. A unit includes:

(a) one truck suitable for hauling grain;

(b) one header trailer or one combine trailer; and

(c) pickup trucks used by the resident in the resident's business of custom combining.

(3) When used to transport agricultural products, a truck authorized to be used under a custom combiner's special permit may be operated only within a 100-mile radius from the harvested field to the point of first unloading. The truck may not haul agricultural products from one commercial elevator to another commercial elevator. The truck may be operated on any highway, except an interstate highway, as defined in 60-1-103, without incurring excess weight penalties under 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the truck does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 20% for each axle and the maximum load for each inch of tire width does not exceed 670 pounds. A trip permit is not required. If the truck exceeds the tolerance provided under this subsection, the fine or penalty imposed applies to all weight over the legal limit allowed by 61-10-107.

(4) A combine trailer authorized to be used under subsection (1)(b) or (2)(b) may be operated under the same limitations, except that the 100-mile limitation does not apply and the combine trailer may be used upon any highway of the state, including an interstate highway, as defined in 60-1-103. If the combine trailer exceeds the tolerance provided under subsection (3), the fine or penalty imposed applies to all weight over the legal limit allowed by 61-10-107.

(5) The fee required by this section must be collected by the department of transportation. Upon payment of the fee, the department of transportation shall provide an identifying device to be displayed on each truck, header trailer, or combine trailer and other equipment used by the nonresident or resident in the person's business of custom combining in the state. The device is valid for the calendar year in which the fee is collected.

(6) All fees collected under this section must be distributed not later than January 31 immediately following the period of licensure as follows:

(a) 62½% to the state general fund; and

(b) 37½% to the state special revenue fund for the department of transportation.

(7) The identifying devices and fee paid for each unit are not transferable from one vehicle to another or transferable on the sale or change of ownership.

(8) The department of transportation may adopt rules, as provided in Title 2, chapter 4, to implement the provisions of this section.

History: **En. 84-6015 by Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 84-6015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 581, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 20, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1989; Sec. 15-24-1001, MCA 1987; redes. 61-10-130 by Sec. 3, Ch. 183, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 369, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 299, L. 2019.**

61-10-131 through 61-10-140 reserved.

61-10-141. Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads — definition. (1) (a) A peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation may weigh any vehicle regulated by 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110, except recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or motor homes, by means of either portable scales used on an engineered site or stationary scales. The peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest stationary scales or engineered site for use of portable scales if those stationary scales or an engineered site is within 2 miles.

(b) If it is determined in the weighing process that the maximum allowable weights specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 have been exceeded, the peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation may then require the driver to unload at a designated facility that portion of the load necessary to decrease the weight of the vehicle to conform to the maximum allowable weights specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110. If the excess weight does not exceed 10,000 pounds, an excess weight permit may be issued in accordance with 61-10-121. The permit authorizes the driver of the excess weight load to proceed to a designated facility where the load can be safely reduced to legal limits.

(2) Commodities and material unloaded as required by this section must be cared for by the owner or operator of the vehicle at the risk of that owner or operator. Commodities or material unloaded as required by this section may not be left on the highway right-of-way.

(3) The department of transportation may establish, maintain, and operate weigh stations, either intermittently or on a continuous schedule, and may, except for trucks exempted by department administrative rule, require all trucks and commercial motor vehicles of 26,000 pounds GVW or greater to enter for the purpose of weighing and inspection for compliance with all laws pertaining to their operation and safety requirements. The department may require vehicles over 10,000 pounds, except those exempted by department administrative rule, to be inspected and weighed by portable scale crews when the portable scales are used on an engineered site.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "engineered site" means:

(a) a turnout designed and constructed by the department of transportation that has indents in the pavement to level portable scales; or

(b) a site where leveling pads can be used in strict accordance with all of the manufacturer's manuals and specifications.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 171, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1751.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 184, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1126(1) thru (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 686, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 366, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 227, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 89, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Public scales, Title 7, ch. 21, part 31.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Peace officer defined, 45-2-101.
Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-10-142. Display of permit. A special permit issued under 61-10-121 shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any peace officer, officer of the highway patrol, or employee of the department of transportation.

History: En. 32-1127.8 by Sec. 34, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.8; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Peace officer defined, 45-2-101.
Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-10-143. Repealed. Sec. 39, Ch. 299, L. 2019.

History: En. 32-1127.9 by Sec. 35, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.9; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

61-10-144. Violation of standards — tolerance. (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any provision of 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110.

(2) The operator of a vehicle or combination of vehicles may move over the highways to the first open stationary scale or portable scale on an engineered site, as defined in 61-10-141, without incurring the excess weight penalties set forth in 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable total gross weight limitations by more than 10% and if the weight carried by any axle or combination of axles does not exceed the allowable axle weight limitations by more than 10%. If the vehicle or combination of vehicles is not in excess of the allowable total gross or axle weight limitations by more than 10%, the department may issue a single trip permit for the fee of $10, allowing the vehicle or combination of vehicles to move over the highways to the first facility where its load can be safely adjusted or to its destination. Violations of total gross or axle weight limitations in excess of 10% are subject to the fines provided in 61-10-145, and all loads in excess of 10% of the total gross or axle weight limitations:

(a) may be required to be adjusted or reduced to conform to the size and weight limitations before the vehicle or combination of vehicles is moved from the point of weighing; or

(b) may be issued a permit as authorized by 61-10-141.

(3) Farm vehicles transporting agricultural products from a harvesting combine or other harvesting machinery may be operated on any highway, except an interstate highway, as defined in 60-1-103, within a 100-mile radius of the harvested field to the point of first unloading without incurring excess weight penalties under 61-10-145 if the total gross weight of the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles does not exceed allowable weight limitations by more than 20% for each axle and the maximum load for each inch of tire width does not exceed 670 pounds. A single trip permit, as required in subsection (2), is not applicable to the farm vehicle or combination of vehicles. When a farm vehicle or combination of vehicles violates any of the provisions of this subsection, the fine or penalty imposed applies to that portion of the load above the legal limit.

History: En. Sec. 3(a), Ch. 123, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1124; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 392, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 487, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 70, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 369, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 299, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-10-145. Penalties. (1) A person, firm, or corporation convicted of violating 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 shall be punished by a fine of not less than $30 or more than $100. A person, firm, or corporation convicted of operating a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state with weight upon a wheel, axle, or group of axles greater than the maximum permitted by 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 shall be fined, in addition to other penalties provided by law for the offense, the following amounts:

(a) $30 for any excess weight up to and including 2,000 pounds;
(b) $75 for any excess weight more than 2,000 pounds and less than 4,001 pounds;
(c) $125 for any excess weight more than 4,000 pounds and less than 6,001 pounds;
(d) $175 for any excess weight more than 6,000 pounds and less than 8,001 pounds;
(e) $250 for any excess weight more than 8,000 pounds and less than 10,001 pounds;
(f) $275 for any excess weight more than 10,000 pounds and less than 12,001 pounds;
(g) $300 for any excess weight more than 12,000 pounds and less than 14,001 pounds;
(h) $400 for any excess weight more than 14,000 pounds and less than 16,001 pounds;
(i) $500 for any excess weight more than 16,000 pounds and less than 18,001 pounds;
(j) $600 for any excess weight more than 18,000 pounds and less than 20,001 pounds;
(k) $1,000 for any excess weight more than 20,000 pounds and less than 25,001 pounds;
(l) $2,000 for any excess weight more than 25,000 pounds.

(2) If a motor vehicle is equipped with a retractable axle that is not fully extended and carrying its proportionate share of the load while the motor vehicle is operated upon the highways of this state, the weight penalties in subsection (1) apply to all weight over the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles regardless of whether the axle is extended at the time of weighing. In addition to the penalties in subsection (1), the owner or operator shall be fined $100 for failure to have the retractable axle fully extended while the gross weight of the vehicle exceeds the legal maximum allowed by the fixed axles.

(3) A complaint filed and a summons or notice to appear issued pertaining to a violation of the gross weight regulations in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 must specify the amount of the excess weight that the defendant is alleged to have had upon the vehicle or combination of vehicles.

(4) It is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in 46-18-212, for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any of the provisions of 61-10-123, 61-10-141, or 61-10-142.

History: **En. Sec. 3(b), Ch. 123, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1125; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 601, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 70, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 232, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

61-10-146. Special permits — misrepresentations and violations as misdemeanor. (1) A person who knowingly and willfully misrepresents the size or weight of a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in obtaining a special permit or who does not follow the requirements and conditions of the special permit or who operates a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing the size or weight of which requires a special permit without first obtaining a special permit is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A person, firm, or corporation convicted of:

(a) operating a vehicle or combination of vehicles with weight upon a wheel, axle, or group of axles greater than the maximum authorized by a special permit or of operating without a special permit a vehicle or combination of vehicles the weight of which requires a special permit shall, in addition to the other penalties provided by law for the offense, be punished by a fine in the amount provided in 61-10-145(1); or

(b) violating any provision of 61-10-124(3) or any restriction on the special permits issued by the department under 61-10-124(3) shall be punished by a fine of not less than $500 or more than $1,000, and all special permits issued for the operation of the combination in violation must be confiscated. The combination must be separated into combinations of legal length before the units may proceed.

History: **En. 32-1127.7 by Sec. 33, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1127.7; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 421, L. 1979; (2) En. Sec. 4, Ch. 474, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 89, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
False swearing, 45-7-202.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

61-10-147. Penalties for using highway when use is restricted. (1) It is a misdemeanor for a person, firm, or corporation to violate any of the provisions of 61-10-128(2).

(2) A person, firm, or corporation first convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of 61-10-128(2) shall be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $50. For a second conviction within 1 year the person, firm, or corporation shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 or more than $200. On a third or subsequent conviction within 1 year after the first conviction the person, firm, or corporation shall be punished by a fine of not less than $200 or more than $500.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 171, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1751.9, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1130; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

61-10-148. Disposition of fines and forfeited bonds. (1) Except as provided in 61-12-701 and subsection (2) of this section, all the money collected as fines and forfeited bonds for violations of Title 61, chapter 10, must be remitted monthly by the county treasurer to the state, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit in the state general fund. This subsection does not apply to fines and forfeited bonds paid to justices' courts.

(2) If the apprehension or arrest was for a violation of Title 61, chapter 10, and if the offense occurred on a road or highway not included under the provisions of 60-2-128 and 60-2-203, all money collected as fines and forfeited bonds must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, Ch. 72, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, Ch. 141, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 1752, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1752, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 226, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 214, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1131; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 601, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 316, L. 1987; amd. Secs. 39, 66, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 87, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 389, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-10-149 through 61-10-153 reserved.

61-10-154. Department of transportation to adopt motor carrier safety standards — enforcement — designation of peace officers — duties — violations. (1) As used in this section, the terms "for-hire motor carrier", "private motor carrier", "gross vehicle weight rating", and "gross combination weight rating" have the same meaning as provided in 49 CFR 390.5.

(2) The department of transportation shall adopt, by rule, standards for safety of operations of:

(a) any for-hire motor carrier or any private motor carrier;

(b) any motor vehicle or vehicle combination used in interstate commerce that has a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of 10,001 pounds or more;

(c) any motor vehicle or vehicle combination used in intrastate commerce that has a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight, whichever is greater, of 26,001 pounds or more and that is not a farm vehicle operating solely in Montana;

(d) any motor vehicle that is designed or used to transport at least 16 passengers, including the driver, and that is not used to transport passengers for compensation;

(e) any motor vehicle that is designed or used to transport at least nine passengers, including the driver, for compensation; or

(f) any motor vehicle that is used to transport hazardous materials of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be marked or placarded in accordance with federal hazardous materials regulations in 49 CFR, part 172.

(3) Standards of safety adopted under this section must substantially comply, within allowed tolerance guidelines, to the federal motor carrier safety regulations and the federal hazardous material regulations as applied to motor carriers and vehicles transporting passengers or property in commerce.

(4) The department of transportation shall work with the highway patrol in the enforcement of safety standards adopted pursuant to this section. The highway patrol and the department of transportation shall cooperate to ensure minimum duplication and maximum coordination of enforcement efforts.

(5) In order to enforce compliance with safety standards adopted pursuant to this section, the department of transportation shall designate employees as peace officers. The designated employees must be employed in the administration of the motor carrier services functions of the department of transportation. Each employee designated as a peace officer may:

(a) issue citations and make arrests in connection with violations of safety standards adopted under this section;

(b) issue summonses;

(c) accept bail;

(d) serve warrants for arrest;

(e) make reasonable inspections of cargo carried by commercial motor vehicles;

(f) enforce the provisions of Title 49 of the United States Code and regulations that have been adopted under Title 49 and make reasonable safety inspections of commercial motor vehicles used by motor carriers; and

(g) require production of documents relating to the cargo, driver, routing, or ownership of commercial motor vehicles.

(6) In addition to other enforcement duties assigned under 61-10-141 and this section, an employee of the department of transportation who is appointed as a peace officer pursuant to 61-12-201 or this section:

(a) has the same authority to enforce provisions of the motor carriers law as that granted to the public service commission under 69-12-203;

(b) has the duty to secure or make copies, or both, of all bills of lading or other evidence of delivery for shipment of agricultural seeds, as defined in 80-5-120, that have been sold or are intended for sale in Montana and to forward the copies to the department of agriculture within 24 hours of the date that the bill of lading was obtained;

(c) has the authority, if probable cause exists, to stop and inspect a supply tank connected to the engine of any diesel-powered motor vehicle operating on the public highways of this state in order to determine compliance with Title 15, chapter 70, part 4;

(d) has for vehicle configurations subject to 61-10-141 and this section, the authority to issue a citation:

(i) pursuant to 61-9-520(1)(a) for violation of 61-9-406(6) when the vehicle configuration causes a lane blockage; and

(ii) pursuant to 61-9-520(1)(b) for violation of 61-9-406(6) when the vehicle configuration causes an incident that results in the closure of all lanes in one or both directions of a highway; and

(e) may, on any highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation within the exterior boundaries of a reservation whose tribal government has entered into an agreement with the department of transportation pursuant to Title 18, chapter 11, part 1, exercise the authority under this part to issue a citation pursuant to 61-9-520 for violation of 61-9-406(6).

(7) A violation of the standards adopted pursuant to this section is punishable as provided in 61-9-512, and the court, upon conviction, as defined in 61-5-213, shall forward a record of conviction to the department of transportation within 5 days in accordance with 61-11-101.

(8) The department of transportation shall report to the transportation interim committee biennially, in accordance with 5-11-210, on its enforcement of the provisions of Title 15, chapter

70, part 4, pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (6)(c) and on any impacts that enforcement has had on the state special revenue fund.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 366, L. 2005; amd. sec. 38, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 3, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 163, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 126, L. 2021.

61-10-155. Rulemaking authority. The department of transportation may adopt and enforce rules to implement this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 2

Gross Vehicle Weight Licensing Requirements

Part Cross-References

Criminal jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, 3-10-303.
Interstate cooperative agreements for collection of taxes and fees, 60-2-311.
Gross vehicle weight defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-201. Weight fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, and buses. In addition to other fees for the licensing of vehicles, there must be paid and collected annually for each truck, truck tractor, and bus, based upon the manufacturer's rated capacity for trucks with a capacity of 1 ton or less and upon the maximum gross loaded weight and the maximum gross weight of any towed unit of each truck and truck tractor as set by the licensee in the licensee's application, the following fees:

Manufacturer's rated capacity up to 1/2 ton	$ 7.00
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 3/4 ton	12.50
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton	17.50
Up to 16,000 lbs	21.00
16,001 through 18,000 lbs	28.00
18,001 through 20,000 lbs	37.50
20,001 through 22,000 lbs	47.00
22,001 through 24,000 lbs	70.00
24,001 through 26,000 lbs	90.00
26,001 through 28,000 lbs	110.00
28,001 through 30,000 lbs	130.00
30,001 through 32,000 lbs	150.00
32,001 through 34,000 lbs	170.00
34,001 through 36,000 lbs	190.00
36,001 through 38,000 lbs	215.00
38,001 through 40,000 lbs	235.00
40,001 through 42,000 lbs	255.00
42,001 through 44,000 lbs	275.00
44,001 through 46,000 lbs	300.00
46,001 through 48,000 lbs	320.00
48,001 through 50,000 lbs	340.00
50,001 through 52,000 lbs	360.00
52,001 through 54,000 lbs	380.00
54,001 through 56,000 lbs	400.00
56,001 through 58,000 lbs	420.00
58,001 through 60,000 lbs	440.00
60,001 through 62,000 lbs	460.00
62,001 through 64,000 lbs	482.50
64,001 through 66,000 lbs	502.50
66,001 through 68,000 lbs	522.50
68,001 through 70,000 lbs	545.75
70,001 through 72,000 lbs	566.50
72,001 through 74,000 lbs	607.50
74,001 through 76,000 lbs	655.00
76,001 through 78,000 lbs	695.00
78,001 through 80,000 lbs	750.00

Over 80,000 lbs. and within the weight limits specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110	750.00 plus an additional $46.00 for each ton or fraction of a ton in excess of 80,000 lbs. plus an additional $100.00 to exceed the 80,000 lbs. federal gross weight limit.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 6-201, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; Sec. 32-3301, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6-203, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3303, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3301, 32-3303; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 236, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 232, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 327, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-202. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 6-202, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; Sec. 32-3302, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6-203, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3303, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3302, 32-3303; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-10-203. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 327, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3302.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 232, L. 1997.

61-10-204. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6-204, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3304.

61-10-205. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: En. 32-3304.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3304.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 600, L. 1987.

61-10-206. Special fees — certain farm vehicles. (1) Except for motortrucks owned and operated by cooperative associations or cooperative marketing associations, there must be paid and collected annually a fee equal to 35% of the fees provided in 61-10-201 on:

(a) motortrucks owned and operated by ranchers or farmers in:

(i) the transportation of their own ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy products from point of production to market;

(ii) the transportation of timber harvested on their own ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy from point of harvest to market;

(iii) the transportation of supplies, commodities, or equipment to be used on the ranch, farm, orchard, or dairy;

(iv) the infrequent or seasonal transportation by one farmer for another for any purpose other than commercial hire of products of the farm, orchard, or dairy; or

(v) the transportation of supplies or commodities to be used on the farm, orchard, or dairy; and

(b) one truck tractor and lowboy trailer used by contractors engaged exclusively in soil conservation work and land leveling activities that result in direct benefit to agriculture.

(2) The minimum fee is $6.

(3) A motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural land must be treated as special mobile equipment.

History: En. Sec. 6-206, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3306; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 314, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 229, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Cooperative associations, Title 35, ch. 15.
Agricultural associations, Title 35, ch. 16.
Cooperative agricultural marketing, Title 35, ch. 17.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-207. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6-207, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3307.

61-10-208. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6-205, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 2, Ex. L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3305.

61-10-209. Monthly payment — quarterly payment — penalty for failure to pay fee. (1) When the gross weight of a vehicle exceeds 24,000 pounds, the gross weight or special fees for trucks, tractors, or buses may be paid for a 1-month period for one-twelfth the regular fee or for a 3-month period for one-fourth the regular fee at the beginning of any quarter of the calendar year. For each fee paid other than at the time of payment of the annual vehicle registration fee, an additional fee of $5 must be charged. The department may adopt rules relative to the issuance and display of certificates or insignia, which must state the months for which the vehicle is licensed.

(2) A vehicle licensed under this section may not be operated over the public highways after the expiration of:

(a) the 1-month period until the owner pays the required fee for a license for an additional 1-month or 3-month period or for the remainder of the year; or

(b) the 3-month period unless the owner or operator of the vehicle, within 10 calendar days or 7 business days as provided by law, whichever is greater, pays the required fee for a license for an additional 1-month or 3-month period or for the remainder of the year.

(3) A person who operates a vehicle upon the public highways in violation of subsection (2) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: (1)En. Sec. 6-208, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3308, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)En. Sec. 6-209, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 292, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 316, L. 1974; Sec. 32-3309, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3308, 32-3309; amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 115, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 115, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Duties of Sheriff, 7-32-2121.
Municipal police force, Title 7, ch. 32, part 41.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Misdemeanor — no penalty specified, 46-18-212.
Gross vehicle weight defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-210. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 575, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 6-210, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3310.

61-10-211. Fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, trailers, and semitrailers from other states. (1) In lieu of other fees for the licensing of vehicles, there must be collected a fee for each motortruck and truck tractor already licensed for the year in another jurisdiction and operated upon an itinerant basis in this state. The fee provided in subsection (2) must be collected upon each entrance of the vehicle into the state and must be based upon the number of miles to be traveled in the state and the registered gross vehicle weight of the motortruck or truck tractor as shown in the application of the nonresident operator.

(2) The fee for each trip in Montana is:

	0-200 miles	201-400 miles	over 400 miles
Up to 46,000 lbs.	$10	$15	$20
46,001 through 80,000 lbs.	20	30	40
Over 80,001 lbs.	50	65	80
Triple combination	60	80	100

(3) The fees do not apply to any trailer the principal use of which is as temporary or permanent living quarters, or to any vehicle of a carnival that is under contract with a state, county, or district fair association.

(4) A fee must be collected for each nonresident, unlicensed or unregistered trailer or semitrailer entering Montana. The fee for each trip in Montana is:

(a) $10 for each trip of 200 miles or less;
(b) $15 for each trip of over 200 miles to 400 miles; and
(c) $20 for each trip of over 400 miles.

History: En. Sec. 6-212, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3312; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 40, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 88, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 232, L. 1997.

Cross-References

County fairs, Title 7, ch. 21, part 34.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-212. Temporary trip permits showing payment of fees — display. (1) Temporary trip permits showing payment of the fees provided for in 61-10-211 shall be issued under rules prescribed by the department. The permit shall be displayed in the vehicle for which the fee has been paid at all times while the vehicle is being operated on the highways of this state by posting it where it may be read.

(2) The department may limit the operation of the vehicle in this state to a definite period of time.

History: En. Sec. 6-213, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3313.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-10-213. Time for payment of fees by nonresidents — disposition. (1) A nonresident owner or operator of a motortruck, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer shall pay the fee and secure the permit prescribed either:

(a) electronically, prior to entering the state; or
(b) immediately on arrival in the state by contacting the department's Helena office or the nearest open weigh station location, whether permanent or temporary.

(2) All fees collected must be remitted in accordance with 61-10-226.

History: En. Sec. 6-214, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3314; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 115, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 115, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Ports of entry, checking stations, and interstate cooperation, Title 60, ch. 2, part 3.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-214. Exemptions. (1) Motor vehicles operating exclusively for transportation of persons for hire within the limits of incorporated cities or towns and within 15 miles from the limits are exempt from this part.

(2) Motor vehicles brought or driven into Montana by a nonresident, migratory, bona fide agricultural worker temporarily employed in agricultural work in this state when those motor vehicles are used exclusively for transportation of agricultural workers are exempt from this part.

(3) Vehicles lawfully displaying a dealer's or wholesaler's plate as provided in 61-4-102 and 61-4-125 are exempt from this part for a period not to exceed 7 days when moving to or from a dealer's or wholesaler's place of business when unloaded or loaded with dealer's or wholesaler's property only or while being demonstrated in the course of the dealer's or wholesaler's business. Vehicles being demonstrated may not be leased, rented, or operated for compensation by the licensed dealer or wholesaler.

(4) Vehicles exempt from property tax under 15-6-201(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(k), (1)(l), (1)(n), or (1)(o) or 15-6-228(4) are exempt from this part. The department of transportation may require documentation of tax-exempt status from the department of revenue before granting this exemption.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 219, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1973; Sec. 53-626, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3319 by Sec. 183, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3319(part); amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 39, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 383, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 409, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 532, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 584, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 278, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Municipal bus services, Title 7, ch. 14, part 44.
Foreign vehicles used in gainful occupation to be registered — reciprocity, 61-3-701.

61-10-215. Additional tax by municipalities prohibited — exceptions. Municipalities shall not levy, assess, collect, or charge any additional tax upon any carrier of persons or property for hire, except as provided by law. However, no carrier shall be exempt hereby from paying a parking, curb, or ad valorem property tax levied by any municipality.

History: En. Sec. 6-106, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3206.

Cross-References

Municipal taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 44.
Licensing and regulating of vehicles engaged in transporting persons and property, 7-21-4205.

61-10-216 through 61-10-220 reserved.

61-10-221. Purpose of fees. The fees provided in this part are in consideration of the right to use the highways of the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 219, L. 1951; Sec. 53-627, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3320 by Sec. 184, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3320(part).

Cross-References

Highways — legislative policy and intent, 60-1-102.
Agreements concerning analysis of effects of weight on highways, 60-2-207.

61-10-222. Time for payment of fees. Prior to or at the time of registration of the vehicle as required under chapter 3 or chapter 4 or prior to the operation of the vehicle on the public highways, fees provided in this part must be paid in the full amount unless otherwise provided by law. With respect to vehicles operating on the highways with a current temporary registration permit issued under 61-3-224, the fees provided in this part are due and payable at the time of registration.

History: En. Sec. 6-101, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 74, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3201; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 342, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 596, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Registration — time for making application, 61-3-311.
Registration fees of vehicles, 61-3-321.

61-10-223. Expiration date. Any GVW license issued shall be valid only for the period for which issued.

History: En. Sec. 6-102, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3202; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

61-10-224. GVW license transferable. The GVW license issued hereunder is transferable by the licensee of a truck, truck tractor, trailer, semitrailer, lowboy trailer, pole trailer, housetrailer, or passenger car to a replacement vehicle of the same type. This gross vehicle weight license transfer may take place without the licensee transferring ownership of the first vehicle. If the transfer is to a smaller vehicle, there shall be no refund.

History: En. Sec. 6-103, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 127, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3203; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 421, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Housetrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Pole trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Withdrawal of fleet vehicles — procedure, credits, and accounting, 61-3-725.

61-10-225. Disposition of fees collected by county treasurer. The county treasurer shall transmit the fees provided for in 61-10-222 to the state, as provided in 15-1-504, for deposit to the credit of the department of transportation in the highway restricted account provided for in 15-70-126. The remittance must be made on forms furnished to the county treasurer by the department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 6-104, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3204; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 181, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 230, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

61-10-226. Deposit of state highway money. (1) Money received for the use of the department of transportation from the receipt or transfer of GVW license fees, as provided by law, or from other state sources must be deposited in the highway restricted account provided for in 15-70-126 to the credit of the department.

(2) Money received from the federal government or other agencies must be deposited in a federal or state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(3) Money collected for the department as authorized by law must be credited to the appropriate fund by the state treasurer.

(4) Money received from the counties must be deposited in the appropriate account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

History: En. Sec. 6-105, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3205; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 700, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Highway revenue nondiversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Distribution and apportionment of highway funds, Title 60, ch. 3.

61-10-227. Blank forms furnished to county treasurers. The department shall furnish all county treasurers with the following:

(1) blank application forms and affidavit forms outlining and providing for the information needed in each classification of license required;

(2) GVW licenses in a form determined most suitable by the department;

(3) the other forms, registration decals, certificates, or blanks that the department considers necessary to carry out this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 219, L. 1951; Sec. 53-620, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3205.1 by Sec. 181, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3205.1; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 130, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.

61-10-228 through 61-10-230 reserved.

61-10-231. Enforcement. The highway patrol and any designated employee of the department of transportation shall enforce this part, and those persons shall examine and inspect the motor vehicles operating upon the highways in this state and regulated by this part to ascertain whether or not those laws are being complied with.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 219, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1955; Sec. 53-624, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 32-3318 by Sec. 182, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3318; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 39, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 515, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Enforcement by Department of Transportation personnel, Title 61, ch. 12, part 2.

61-10-232. Violation — penalty. Any owner or operator of a motortruck, truck tractor, trailer, semitrailer, bus, or automobile who violates any provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than $300 or by a sentence of not more than 60 days in the county jail or both.

History: En. Sec. 6-216, Ch. 197, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3316.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Bus defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.

61-10-233. Excess weight — penalties. (1) The operator is subject to the penalties stated in 61-10-232 whenever the gross loaded weight of any trucks, truck tractor, trailer, or semitrailer operated upon any highway in this state exceeds the gross vehicle weight shown on:

(a) the owner's certificate of registration and registration receipt issued under 61-3-322; or

(b) the gross vehicle weight license issued under this part.

(2) In addition, the operator shall immediately pay to the nearest county treasurer or to the department the difference between the fee already paid and that applicable to the gross weight of the vehicle before unloading the excess, provided that it does not exceed the legal axle weight.

History: En. Sec. 6-217, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-3317; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 614, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 130, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Gross vehicle weight defined, 61-1-101.
Semitrailer defined, 61-1-101.
Trailer defined, 61-1-101.
Truck defined, 61-1-101.
Truck tractor defined, 61-1-101.
Axle defined, 61-10-104.

61-10-234 through 61-10-240 reserved.

61-10-241. Terminated. Sec. 39(5), Ch. 15, Sp. L. July 1992.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 15, Sp. L. July 1992.

Parts 3 through 10 reserved

Part 11

Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement

Part Cross-References

Interstate cooperative agreements for collection of taxes and fees, 60-2-311.

61-10-1101. Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement — enactment and text. The Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdictions legally joining in the agreement in the form substantially as follows:

MULTISTATE HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to and in conformity with the laws of their respective jurisdictions, the participating jurisdictions, acting by and through their officials lawfully authorized to execute this agreement, do mutually agree as follows:

Article I. Findings and Purposes

Section 1. Findings. The participating jurisdictions find that:

(a) the expanding regional economy depends on expanding transportation capacity;

(b) highway transportation is the major mode for movement of people and goods in the western states;

(c) uniform application in the West of more adequate vehicle size and weight standards will result in a reduction of pollution, congestion, fuel consumption, and related transportation costs, which are necessary to permit increased productivity;

(d) a number of western states, already having adopted substantially the 1964 bureau of public roads recommended vehicle size and weight standards, still find current federal limits more restrictive; and

(e) the participating jurisdictions are most capable of developing vehicle size and weight standards most appropriate for the regional economy and transportation requirements, consistent with and in recognition of principles of highway safety.

Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of this agreement are to:

(a) adhere to the principle that each participating jurisdiction should have the freedom to develop vehicle size and weight standards that it determines to be most appropriate to its economy and highway system;

(b) establish a system authorizing the operation of vehicles traveling between two or more participating jurisdictions at more adequate size and weight standards;

(c) promote uniformity among participating jurisdictions in vehicle size and weight standards on the basis of the objectives set forth in this agreement;

(d) secure uniformity, insofar as possible, of administrative procedures in the enforcement of recommended vehicle size and weight standards;

(e) provide means for the encouragement and utilization of research that will facilitate the achievement of the foregoing purposes, with due regard for the findings set forth in section 1 of this article; and

(f) facilitate communication between legislators, state transportation administrators, and commercial industry representatives in addressing the emerging highway transportation issues in participating jurisdictions.

Article II. Definitions

Section 1. As used in this agreement:

(a) "cooperating committee" means a committee composed of the designated representatives from the participating jurisdictions;

(b) "designated representative" means a legislator or other person authorized under Article XII to represent the jurisdiction;

(c) "jurisdiction" means a state of the United States or the District of Columbia;

(d) "vehicle" means any vehicle defined by statute as subject to size and weight standards that operates in two or more participating jurisdictions.

Article III. General Provisions

Section 1. Qualifications for membership. Participation in this agreement is open to jurisdictions that subscribe to the findings, purposes, and objectives of this agreement and will seek legislation necessary to accomplish these objectives.

Section 2. Cooperation. The participating jurisdictions, working through their designated representatives, shall cooperate and assist each other in achieving the desired goals of this agreement pursuant to appropriate statutory authority.

Section 3. Effect of headings. Article and section headings contained in this agreement may not be considered to govern, limit, modify, or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of the provisions of any article or section of the agreement.

Section 4. Vehicle laws and regulations. This agreement does not authorize the operation of a vehicle in any participating jurisdiction contrary to the laws or regulations of the jurisdiction.

Section 5. Interpretation. The final decision regarding interpretation of questions at issue relating to this agreement must be reached by unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions, acting through the designated representatives. Results of all actions must be placed in writing.

Section 6. Amendment. This agreement may be amended by unanimous joint action of the participating jurisdictions, acting through the officials of the jurisdictions authorized to enter into this agreement, subject to the requirements of section 4, Article III. Any amendment must be placed in writing and become a part of the agreement.

Section 7. Restrictions, conditions, or limitations. Any jurisdiction entering this agreement shall provide each other participating jurisdiction with a list of any restriction, condition, or limitation on the general terms of this agreement, if any.

Section 8. Additional jurisdictions. Additional jurisdictions may become members of this agreement by signing and accepting the terms of the agreement.

Article IV. Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Each participating jurisdiction must have two designated representatives. Pursuant to section 2, Article III, the designated representatives of the participating jurisdictions constitute the cooperating committee that may:

(a) collect, correlate, analyze, and evaluate information resulting or derivable from research and testing activities in relation to vehicle size and weight related matters;

(b) recommend and encourage the undertaking of research and testing in any aspect of vehicle size and weight or related matter when, in their collective judgment, appropriate or sufficient research or testing has not been undertaken;

(c) recommend changes in law or policy with emphasis on compatibility of laws and uniformity of administrative rules that would promote effective governmental action or coordination in the field of vehicle size and weight related matters;

(d) recommend improvements in highway operations, in vehicular safety, and in state administration of highway transportation laws; and

(e) perform functions necessary to facilitate the purposes of this agreement.

Section 2. Each designated representative of a participating jurisdiction is entitled to one vote only. An action of the committee may not be approved unless a majority of the total number of votes cast by the designated representatives of the participating jurisdictions are in favor of the action.

Section 3. The committee shall meet at least once annually and shall elect, from among its members, a presiding officer, a vice presiding officer, and a secretary.

Section 4. The committee shall submit annually to the legislature of each participating jurisdiction a report setting forth the work of the committee during the preceding year and including recommendations developed by the committee. The committee may submit additional reports as it considers appropriate or desirable.

Article V. Objectives of the Participating Jurisdictions

Section 1. Objectives. The participating jurisdictions hereby declare that:

(a) it is the objective of the participating jurisdictions to obtain more efficient and more economical transportation by motor vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions by encouraging the adoption of standards that will, as minimums, allow the operation on all state highways, except those determined through engineering evaluation to be inadequate, with a single-axle weight not in excess of 20,000 pounds, a tandem-axle weight not in excess of 34,000 pounds, and a gross vehicle or combination weight not in excess of that resulting from application of the formula:

$$W = 500((LN/(N - 1)) + 12N + 36)$$

where

W = maximum weight in pounds carried on any group of two or more consecutive axles computed to nearest 500 pounds;

L = distance in feet between the extremes of any group of two or more consecutive axles;

N = number of axles in group under consideration;

(b) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions that the operation of a vehicle or combination of vehicles in interstate commerce according to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section be authorized under special permit authority by each participating jurisdiction for vehicle combinations in excess of statutory weight of 80,000 pounds or statutory lengths;

(c) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to facilitate and expedite the operation of any vehicle or combination of vehicles between and among the participating jurisdictions under the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and to that end the participating jurisdictions hereby agree, through their designated representatives, to meet and cooperate in the consideration of vehicle size and weight related matters including but not limited to the development of uniform enforcement procedures; additional vehicle size and weight standards; operational standards; agreements or compacts to facilitate regional application and administration of vehicle size and weight standards; uniform permit procedures; uniform application forms; rules for the operation of vehicles, including equipment requirements, driver qualifications, and operating practices; and other matters as may be pertinent;

(d) the cooperating committee may recommend that the participating jurisdictions jointly secure congressional approval of this agreement and specifically of the vehicle size and weight standards set forth in subsection (a) of this section;

(e) it is the further objective of the participating jurisdictions to:

(1) establish transportation laws and regulations to meet regional and economic needs and to promote an efficient, safe, and compatible transportation network;

(2) develop standards that facilitate the most efficient and environmentally sound operation of vehicles on highways consistent with and in recognition of principles of highway safety; and

(3) establish programs to increase productivity and reduce congestion, fuel consumption, and related transportation costs and enhance air quality through the uniform application of state vehicle regulations and laws.

Article VI. Entry Into Force and Withdrawal

Section 1. This agreement becomes effective when enacted into law by any two or more jurisdictions. Thereafter, this agreement becomes effective as to any other jurisdiction upon its enactment of the agreement, except as otherwise provided in section 8, Article III.

Section 2. Any participating jurisdiction may withdraw from this agreement by canceling it but a withdrawal may not take effect until 30 days after the designated representative of the withdrawing jurisdiction has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to all other participating jurisdictions.

Article VII. Construction and Severability

Section 1. This agreement must be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes of the agreement.

Section 2. The provisions of this agreement are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this agreement is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any participating jurisdiction or the applicability of this agreement to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this agreement is not affected. If this agreement is held contrary to the constitution of any jurisdiction participating in the agreement, the agreement remains in full force and effect as to the jurisdictions affected as to all severable matters.

Article VIII. Filing of Documents

Section 1. A copy of this agreement, its amendments, and rules promulgated under the agreement and interpretations of the agreement must be filed in the highway department in each participating jurisdiction and must be made available for review by interested parties.

Article IX. Existing Statutes Not Repealed

Section 1. All existing statutes prescribing weight and size standards and all existing statutes relating to special permits continue to be of force and effect until amended or repealed by law.

Article X. State Government Departments Authorized to Cooperate With Cooperating Committee

Section 1. Within appropriations available, the departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state shall cooperate with and assist the cooperating committee within the scope contemplated by Article IV, subsections 1(a) and 1(b) of the agreement. The departments, agencies, and officers of the government of this state are authorized generally to cooperate with the cooperating committee.

Article XI. Funding

Section 1. Funds for the administration of this agreement, including participation in the cooperating committee and the actual expenses of the designated representatives, must be budgeted by each participating jurisdiction as appropriate.

Article XII. Selection of Designated Representatives

Section 1. The process for selecting the designated representatives to the cooperating committee must be established by law under this section.

Section 2. The persons authorized to represent the state of Montana as the designated representatives to the cooperating committee are the presiding officer of the senate highways and transportation committee and the presiding officer of the house transportation committee. The presiding officer may appoint a designee to serve in the presiding officer's place. The designee must be a legislator or an official of the Montana department of transportation.

Section 3. The presiding officers of the legislative committees shall each appoint one alternate designated representative. The alternate must be a legislator or an official of the Montana department of transportation and shall serve in the absence of the presiding officer.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 235, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Highway code, Title 60, ch. 1.

Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

Assent to federal law, 60-3-101.

CHAPTER 11
RECORDS AND REPORTS OF CONVICTIONS

Part 1 — General Provisions

61-11-101. Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses.
61-11-102. Records to be kept by department.
61-11-103. Repealed.
61-11-104. Justices of the peace — availability of records.
61-11-105. Release of information — fees.

Part 2 — Habitual Traffic Offenders

61-11-201. Purpose.
61-11-202. Legislative intent.
61-11-203. Definitions — habitual traffic offenders — point schedule.
61-11-204. Department's duties.
61-11-205. Repealed.
61-11-206. Repealed.
61-11-207. Abstracts admissible as evidence.
61-11-208. Repealed.
61-11-209. Repealed.
61-11-210. Appeals.
61-11-211. Department to revoke license of habitual offender — removal of points upon revocation.
61-11-212. Penalties.
61-11-213. Habitual traffic offender operating motor vehicle guilty of misdemeanor.
61-11-214. Repealed.
61-11-215. Construction.

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5 — Montana Driver Privacy Protection Act

61-11-501. Short title.
61-11-502. Purpose.
61-11-503. Definitions.
61-11-504 and 61-11-505 reserved.
61-11-506. Disclosure of personal information from motor vehicle record prohibited.
61-11-507. Required disclosure.
61-11-508. Permitted disclosure of personal information — specific uses.
61-11-509. Permitted disclosure of personal information, excluding highly restricted personal information — specific uses.
61-11-510. Prerequisites to disclosure.
61-11-511 through 61-11-514 reserved.
61-11-515. Sale or disclosure of personal information by recipient.
61-11-516. Repealed.

Chapter Cross-References

Traffic regulation — enforcement — penalties, Title 61, ch. 8, part 7.

Part 1
General Provisions

61-11-101. Report of convictions and suspension or revocation of driver's licenses — surrender of licenses. (1) If a person is convicted of an offense for which chapter 5 or chapter 8, part 8, makes mandatory the revocation of the driver's license or commercial driver's license of the person by the department, the court in which the conviction occurs shall require the surrender to it of all driver's licenses then held by the convicted person. The court shall forward the conviction to the department and destroy the driver's licenses.

(2) A court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under a statute of this state or a municipal ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, except for standing or parking statutes or ordinances, shall forward a record of the conviction, as defined in 61-5-213, to the department within 5 days after the conviction. The court may recommend that the department issue a restricted probationary license on the condition that the individual comply with the requirement that the person attend and complete a chemical dependency education course, treatment, or both, as ordered by the court under 61-8-1009.

(3) A court or other agency of this state or of a subdivision of the state that has jurisdiction to take any action suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting a license to drive shall report an action and the adjudication upon which it is based to the department within 5 days on forms furnished by the department.

(4) (a) On a conviction referred to in subsection (1) of a person who holds a commercial driver's license or who is required to hold a commercial driver's license, a court may not take any action, including deferring imposition of judgment, that would prevent a conviction for any violation of a state or local traffic control law or ordinance, except a parking law or ordinance, in any type of motor vehicle, from appearing on the person's driving record. The provisions of this subsection (4)(a) apply only to the conviction of a person who holds a commercial driver's license or who is required to hold a commercial driver's license and do not apply to the conviction of a person who holds any other type of driver's license.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (4), "who is required to hold a commercial driver's license" refers to a person who did not have a commercial driver's license but who was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of a violation of a state or local traffic control law or ordinance resulting in a conviction referred to in subsection (1).

(5) (a) If a person who holds a valid registry identification card or license issued pursuant to 16-12-203 or 16-12-508 is convicted of or pleads guilty to any offense related to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs when the initial offense with which the person was charged was a violation of 61-8-1002, the court in which the conviction occurs shall require the person to surrender the registry identification card or license.

(b) Within 5 days after the conviction, the court shall forward the registry identification card and a copy of the conviction to the department of revenue.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 29, Ch. 267, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 1977; Sec. 31-145, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1963; Sec. 31-167, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-145(a), (b), 31-167; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 444, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 443, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 207, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 419, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 194, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 21, I.M. No. 182, approved Nov. 8, 2016; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 576, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 686, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Effect of conviction — civil disabilities, 46-18-801.
Treatment of alcoholics and intoxicated persons, Title 53, ch. 24, part 3.
Revocation defined, 61-1-101.
Standing defined, 61-1-101.
Suspension defined, 61-1-101.
Driver improvement program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 3.
Parking defined, 61-4-131.
Restricted licenses, 61-5-113.
Surrender and return of license, 61-5-209.
Conviction defined, 61-5-213.
Penalty for misdemeanor, 61-5-307.
Uniformity of interpretation, 61-5-308.

61-11-102. Records to be kept by department. (1) Except as provided in subsection (8), the department shall create and maintain a central database of electronic files that includes an individual Montana driving record for each person:

(a) who has been issued a Montana driver's license;

(b) who does not have a driver's license from, or active driving record in, another jurisdiction and for whom the department receives a report of conviction of a traffic violation or an offense requiring suspension or revocation of the person's driver's license; and

(c) whose driver's license or driving privileges have been suspended, revoked, canceled, or otherwise withdrawn by the department.

(2) An individual Montana driving record maintained under this section must include:

(a) personal information obtained from the application for a driver's license or a report of conviction;

(b) the person's driver's license number, license type, status, endorsements, restrictions, issue and expiration dates, and any suspensions, revocations, disqualifications, or cancellations that have been imposed against the person;

(c) all convictions reported to the department for the person; and

(d) traffic accidents in which the person was involved, except that a record of involvement in a traffic accident may not be entered on a licensee's record unless the licensee was convicted, as defined in 61-11-203, for an act causally related to the accident.

(3) (a) The department shall create and maintain a CDLIS driver record for each person who has been issued a Montana commercial driver's license or for whom a record of conviction, disqualification, or other licensure action has been taken for violations of any state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic regulation, other than a parking violation, committed while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

(b) A CDLIS driver record maintained by the department must meet the requirements of 49 CFR 384.225.

(c) If the department receives notice that a person has been disqualified by the federal motor carrier safety administration the department shall record the suspension or revocation on the CDLIS driver record.

(4) The department shall retain records created under this section for a period of time that meets or exceeds the standards established under 49 CFR, part 384.

(5) The department is further authorized, upon receiving a record of the conviction in this state of a nonresident driver of a motor vehicle of any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state, to forward, by electronic or other means, a report of the conviction to the motor vehicle administrator in the state in which the person is a resident or licensed.

(6) The department may place on a computer storage device the information contained on original records or reproductions of original records made pursuant to this section. Signatures on records are not required to be placed on a computer storage device.

(7) (a) Except as provided in subsection (7)(b), a reproduction of the information placed on a computer storage device is an original of the record for all purposes and is admissible in evidence without further foundation in all courts or administrative agencies when the department certifies the record.

(b) An order, record, or paper generated from the department's central database of electronic files of individual Montana driving records may be certified electronically by the generating computer. The certification must be a certification of the order, record, or paper as it appeared on a specific date.

(c) A court, an office of a clerk of court, or an attorney licensed to practice law in this state may receive and use a computer-generated individual Montana driving record as evidence without further foundation when:

(i) the individual Montana driving record is electronically transmitted from the department's central database of electronic individual Montana driving records to a department-authorized terminal device maintained by the court, the office of the clerk of court, or the attorney; and

(ii) the judge, an officer of the court, or the attorney certifies that the record was not altered in any way.

(8) Except as provided in subsection (4), the department may destroy any individual Montana driving record maintained under this section if there are no suspensions or revocations on the record and there has been no renewed credential in the immediately preceding 16 years.

History: En. Secs. 25, 27, Ch. 267, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 31-141, 31-143(b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 428, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 41, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 323, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Duties of Department of Justice — records, 61-3-101.
Application for driver's license, 61-5-107.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.
Uniformity of interpretation, 61-5-308.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.
Uniform Accident Reporting Act, Title 61, ch. 7, part 1.

61-11-103. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1999.

History: En. 32-2144.6 by Sec. 6, Ch. 60, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2144.6(2).

61-11-104. Justices of the peace — availability of records. Justices of the peace shall make available to the department records of cases which involve the state highway patrol as the department may request.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 199, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 31-116; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Records in Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 5.
Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.

61-11-105. Release of information — fees. (1) Subject to the limitations of this section, the department shall, upon request, furnish a person the individual Montana driving record of a driver or licensee, containing the following data:

(a) the driver's or licensee's name, driver's license number, and date of birth;

(b) driver's license status, including the license type and any endorsements, the license issue date, license restrictions, any suspensions, revocations, or cancellations that have been imposed against the driver or licensee, and the license expiration date;

(c) convictions of the driver or licensee; and

(d) traffic accidents in which the driver or licensee was involved.

(2) The department may not enter into any agreement to disclose or sell, in bulk, any data contained in an individual Montana driving record unless the requester of the information provides the department with the names, driver's license numbers, and dates of birth of the drivers or licensees from whose records a change in license status or conviction activity is to be reported.

(3) (a) The department may not disclose personal information or highly restricted personal information from an individual Montana driving record, except as permitted or required under 61-11-507, 61-11-508, or 61-11-509.

(b) The department may not disclose medical certification status, driver self-certification status, or medical certificate information from a CDLIS driver record as part of an individual Montana driving record except as expressly authorized under 49 CFR 384.225.

(4) Information relating to a traffic accident that did not involve a conviction, as defined in 61-11-203, may not be released by the department unless the release is requested or approved by a party involved in the accident or is required by court order or a duly executed subpoena.

(5) (a) Subject to the requirements of subsection (6) and except as provided in subsection (5)(b), a fee of $4 must be paid for each individual Montana driving record requested. A fee of $10 must be paid if a certified Montana record, as provided in 61-11-102(7), is requested. A fee of 6 cents must be paid for each individual Montana driving record that is searched by the department to report to a requester a change in license status or conviction activity from one or more individual Montana driving records.

(b) An individual Montana driving record must be provided without charge to any criminal justice agency, as defined in 44-5-103, or other state or federal agency.

(6) In addition to the fees required in 61-11-510(3) and subsection (5) of this section, an individual Montana driving record or any report compiled from one or more individual Montana driving records that are digitally transmitted to a requester by an authorized agent as provided in 61-3-116 or through a point of entry for digital government services are subject to the convenience fee provided for in 2-17-1103 or 61-3-116.

(7) The department may require a requester, other than a federal, state, or local government agency, seeking one or more individual Montana driving records or any data otherwise contained in one or more individual Montana driving records in digital format to use an authorized agent as provided in 61-3-116 or a point of entry for digital government services to obtain the record or data.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 503, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 525, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 346, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 416, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 533, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 329, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 296, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 196, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 28, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Powers of judges at chambers, 3-5-311.
Providing information to selective service system, 61-5-126.

Part 2
Habitual Traffic Offenders

61-11-201. Purpose. This part is predicated upon the belief and philosophy that innocent drivers and other innocent passengers and pedestrians have a constitutional right to live, free from fear of death or injury from habitual traffic offenders. Further, it is the purpose of this part to reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents in this state and to provide greater safety to the motoring public and others by denying to the habitual traffic offenders the privilege of operating a motor vehicle upon the public streets and highways of this state.

History: En. 31-175 by Sec 1, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-175.

Cross-References

Inalienable rights, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Traffic safety program, Title 61, ch. 2, part 1.

61-11-202. Legislative intent. It is the legislative intent of this part to:

(1) establish criteria and procedures by which persons who have demonstrated their apparent indifference for the safety and welfare of others and their disrespect for the laws of this state and its political subdivisions and their disregard for the orders of its courts and administrative agencies may be adjudged habitual traffic offenders; and

(2) impose increased deprivation of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle upon these persons.

History: En. 31-176 by Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-176.

Cross-References

Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.

61-11-203. Definitions — habitual traffic offenders — point schedule. (1) As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Conviction" has the meaning provided in 61-5-213 resulting from a violation of traffic regulations on highways in this state or a traffic statute or traffic regulation in another jurisdiction.

(b) "Habitual traffic offender" means any person who within a 3-year period accumulates 30 or more conviction points according to the schedule specified in subsection (2).

(c) "License" means any type of license or permit to operate a motor vehicle.

(d) "Moving violation" means a violation of a traffic regulation of this state or another jurisdiction by a person while operating a motor vehicle or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway.

(e) "Traffic regulation" includes any provision governing motor vehicle operation, equipment, safety, or driver licensing. A traffic regulation does not include provisions governing vehicle registration or local parking.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), when the department receives a report of conviction, the department shall assign points based on the point schedule to determine whether an individual is a habitual traffic offender, as follows:

(a) deliberate homicide resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, 15 points;

(b) mitigated deliberate homicide, negligent homicide resulting from operation of a motor vehicle, or negligent vehicular assault, 12 points;

(c) any offense punishable as a felony under the motor vehicle laws of Montana or any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used, 12 points;

(d) driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or drugs of any kind, 10 points;

(e) operating a motor vehicle while the license to do so has been suspended or revoked, 6 points;

(f) failure of the driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident resulting in death or injury to any person to stop at the scene of the accident and give the required information and assistance, 8 points;

(g) willful failure of the driver involved in an accident resulting in property damage of $1,000 to stop at the scene of the accident and give the required information or failure to otherwise report an accident in violation of Title 61, chapter 7, 4 points;

(h) reckless driving, 5 points;

(i) illegal drag racing or engaging in a speed contest in violation of the law, 5 points;

(j) any of the mandatory motor vehicle liability protection offenses, 5 points;

(k) operating a motor vehicle without a license to do so, 2 points. However, this subsection (2)(k) does not apply to operating a motor vehicle within a period of 180 days from the date the license expired.

(l) speeding, except as provided in 61-8-725(2)(a), 3 points;

(m) all other moving violations, 2 points.

(3) If there are two or more convictions involving a single occurrence, only the number of points for the specific conviction carrying the highest points is chargeable against that defendant.

History: En. 31-177 by Sec. 3, Ch. 362, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 31-177(1), (2), (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 519, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 698, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 43, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 395, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 329, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 428, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 231, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 19, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 395, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 445, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Homicide, Title 45, ch. 5, part 1.
Conditions of bail — violation of conditions, Title 46, ch. 9, part 5.
Effect of conviction — civil disabilities, 46-18-801.
Driver licensing provisions, Title 61, ch. 5, part 1.
Revocation, suspension, or cancellation of licenses, Title 61, ch. 5, part 2.
Accident reporting — penalty for violation, 61-7-118.
Reckless driving, 61-8-301.
Speed restrictions — basic rule, 61-8-303.
Permission of authorities to hold speed contest, 61-8-308.
Multiple convictions prohibited, 61-8-1002.
Operation of vehicle by person with alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more, 61-8-1002.
Penalties for driving under influence, 61-8-1007, 61-8-1008.

61-11-204. Department's duties. (1) If the records maintained by the department show that a person's driving record brings the person within the definition of a habitual traffic offender, the department shall:

(a) declare the person a habitual traffic offender;

(b) revoke the person's driver's license or driving privileges as provided in 61-11-211; and

(c) notify the person in writing of the declaration and revocation.

(2) The notice must be sent by first-class mail to the most current address on record with the department. The notice must include a record of the convictions and bond forfeitures upon which the habitual traffic offender designation was based. The notice must inform the person of the right under 61-11-210 to appeal the declaration and revocation. Service of the notice is complete upon mailing.

History: **En. 31-178 by Sec. 4, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-178; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 309, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 218, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 556, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 323, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

General duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
County Attorney — records and reports, 7-4-2715.
Driver License Compact, Title 61, ch. 5, part 4.

61-11-205. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 338, L. 1995.
History: **En. 31-179 by Sec. 5, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-179; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.**

61-11-206. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 338, L. 1995.
History: **En. 31-180 by Sec. 6, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-180.**

61-11-207. Abstracts admissible as evidence. A copy of a driving record maintained by the department, including abstracts of the records of convictions and bond forfeitures in the custody of the department, certified in writing by the department to be a correct account of its records, may be admitted in evidence in a judicial proceeding under this part. A certified driving record is evidence that the person was convicted of each offense shown in the record. A copy of a driving record may be a copy of an original paper record, a digital image of a paper record, or an electronically transmitted copy of a record.

History: **En. 31-181 by Sec. 7, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-181; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 338, L. 1995.**

61-11-208. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 338, L. 1995.
History: **En. 31-182 by Sec. 8, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-182.**

61-11-209. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 338, L. 1995.
History: **En. 31-183 by Sec. 9, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-183.**

61-11-210. Appeals. (1) A person declared to be a habitual traffic offender may file a petition in the district court in the county in which the person resides, or in Lewis and Clark County if the person is not a resident of the state, challenging the declaration and revocation. The petition must be filed within 30 days after the person received notice under 61-11-204. Receipt under 61-11-204 is presumed to be on the third day after the date of mailing. After the petition is filed, a copy must be promptly served on the county attorney of the county in which the petition was filed. The county attorney shall represent the department in the proceeding. Proof of service must be filed with the clerk of the court prior to a hearing or grant of relief. Untimely service or lack of service upon the county attorney waives the right to a hearing. The filing of the petition does not stay enforcement of the revocation.

(2) Upon receipt from the county attorney of notice of the petition, the department shall give the county attorney a certified record of the convictions and bond forfeitures upon which the habitual traffic offender declaration was based.

(3) A hearing date must be set and at least 10 days' notice of the date must be given to the parties. The scope of the hearing is limited to whether the petitioner is the person named in the certified record of convictions and bond forfeitures upon which the habitual traffic offender declaration was based and whether the petitioner is a habitual traffic offender. The petitioner has the burden of proving that the department's actions are invalid or that its records are erroneous.

(4) If the court finds that the petitioner is the person declared by the department to be a habitual traffic offender and that the petitioner is a habitual traffic offender, the court shall dismiss the petition. If the court finds that the petitioner is not the person declared by the department to be a habitual traffic offender or that the petitioner is not a habitual traffic offender, the court shall grant the petition and provide the petitioner with appropriate relief, which must include an order that the department reimburse the petitioner for court fees paid by the petitioner.

(5) Upon a finding adverse to the petitioner, the clerk of the court shall file with the department a copy of the court's order, together with the petitioner's driver's license if the license has not been previously surrendered. If the petition is granted, the clerk of the court shall file with the department a copy of the court's order granting the petition. The order must state the grounds upon which the relief was granted and must specify the court findings on the

conviction points, if any, that have been accrued by the petitioner. The department shall then correct the petitioner's driving record to comport with the court's specific findings.

History: **En. 31-184 by Sec. 10, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-184; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 338, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 596, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Powers of judges at chambers, 3-5-311.
General duties of Clerk of District Court, 3-5-501.
Surrender and return of license, 61-5-209.

61-11-211. Department to revoke license of habitual offender — removal of points upon revocation. After it declares a person to be a habitual offender, the department shall revoke the person's driver's license or driving privilege for a period of 3 years from the date of the declaration, subject to the provisions of 61-2-302. The department shall remove from the person's record the habitual offender points upon which the habitual traffic offender designation was based.

History: **En. 31-184.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 31-184.1; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 390, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 338, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Mandatory revocation of license upon proper authority, 61-5-205.
Period of suspension or revocation, 61-5-208.

61-11-212. Penalties. A person who has been declared to be a habitual traffic offender may not be issued a license to operate a motor vehicle in this state until:

(1) a period of 3 years has elapsed from the date of the declaration, subject to the provisions of 61-2-302;

(2) the person has met the requirements of all applicable laws and rules relating to the licensing of motor vehicle operators in this state; and

(3) the person files with the department, and maintains for a period of 3 years, proof of financial responsibility in the limits required by law.

History: **En. 31-185 by Sec. 11, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-185; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 390, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 338, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Driver licensing provisions, Title 61, ch. 5, part 1.
Period of suspension or revocation, 61-5-208.
When proof of financial responsibility required, 61-6-131.

61-11-213. Habitual traffic offender operating motor vehicle guilty of misdemeanor. A person who is declared to be a habitual traffic offender under this part who operates a motor vehicle in this state during the period of revocation of the person's driver's license or driving privileges is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be imprisoned for a period of not less than 14 days or more than 1 year or fined not more than $1,000, or both, and the department, upon receiving a record of the conviction of a person under this section, shall extend the period of revocation for an additional 1 year. However, in cases in which the prohibited operation of a motor vehicle by a habitual traffic offender is necessitated in a situation of extreme emergency in order to save life, limb, or property, the person may not be considered guilty of a violation under this part.

History: **En. 31-187 by Sec. 13, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-187; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 390, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 338, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Driving while license suspended or revoked — penalty, 61-5-212.

61-11-214. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 390, L. 1991.

History: **En. 31-188 by Sec. 14, Ch. 362, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 31-188.**

61-11-215. Construction. Nothing contained in this part shall be construed as to repeal, modify, or amend any other laws or parts of laws, or any existing ordinance of any political subdivision relating to the operation or licensing of motor vehicles, the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles or providing penalties for the violation thereof; nor shall anything in this part be construed so as to preclude the exercise of regulatory powers of any division, agency, department, or political subdivision of this state or of the federal government having the statutory power to regulate the operation and licensing of motor vehicles and the licensing of motor vehicle operators.

History: En. 31-189 by Sec. 15, Ch. 362, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 31-189.

Parts 3 and 4 reserved

Part 5
Montana Driver Privacy Protection Act

61-11-501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Driver Privacy Protection Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 2001.

61-11-502. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to create a more restrictive state version of the federal prohibition on release and use of certain personal information from state motor vehicle records, found in 18 U.S.C. 2721, to protect an individual's privacy, consistent with the Montana constitution, by prohibiting the disclosure and use of personal information contained in Montana motor vehicle records, except when that use may be authorized by law.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 2001.

61-11-503. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Disclose" means to engage in any practice or conduct that makes available or known, by means of any communication to another person, organization, or entity, personal information contained in a motor vehicle record.

(2) "Express consent" means an affirmative authorization given in writing by a person to whom personal information pertains that specifically allows the department to release personal information to another person, organization, or entity. Consent may be conveyed electronically if the conveyance includes an electronic signature, as defined in 30-18-102, from the person to whom the personal information pertains.

(3) "Highly restricted personal information" means an individual's photograph or image, social security number, or medical or disability information.

(4) "Motor vehicle record" means any record maintained by the department that pertains to a driver's license, commercial driver's license, driving permit, identification card, or title or registration for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle.

(5) "Person" does not mean a state agency or local government entity.

(6) (a) "Personal information" means information that identifies a person, including a person's name, address, telephone number, social security number, driver's license or identification number, date of birth, photograph or image, and medical or disability information.

(b) The term does not include the five-digit zip code of an address, information on vehicular accidents, driving or equipment-related violations, a person's driver's license or vehicle registration status, or a vehicle's insurance status.

(7) "Record" includes all books, papers, photographs, photostats, cards, film, tapes, recordings, electronic data, printouts, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 533, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 130, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-11-504 and 61-11-505 reserved.

61-11-506. Disclosure of personal information from motor vehicle record prohibited. The department may not disclose personal information from a motor vehicle record unless the disclosure is permitted or required, as provided in 61-11-507, 61-11-508, or 61-11-509.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 363, L. 2001.

61-11-507. Required disclosure. Upon application, proof of the identity of a person requesting a record, and payment of the fees required in 61-11-510, the department shall disclose personal information, excluding highly restricted personal information, from a motor vehicle record for use in implementing federal law and federal regulations regarding:

(1) motor vehicle or driver safety and theft;

(2) motor vehicle emissions;

(3) motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories;

(4) performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and

(5) removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 363, L. 2001.

61-11-508. Permitted disclosure of personal information — specific uses. (1) On application, proof of the identity of the person requesting a record, and payment of fees required in 61-11-510, the department may disclose personal information, including highly restricted personal information, from a motor vehicle record to:

(a) the person who is the subject of the motor vehicle record; or

(b) a person who represents that the use of the information will be strictly limited to one or more of the following:

(i) a federal, state, or local government agency, including a court or a law enforcement agency, and any individual acting on behalf of the agency in carrying out its functions, including county government elections officials verifying voter registration information and representatives of the news media for a legitimate law enforcement purpose, as determined by the department; or

(ii) a person, organization, or entity, on the express consent of the person to whom the information pertains.

(2) The department may not disclose a social security number unless:

(a) it is disclosed for the purposes of subtitle VI of Title 49 of the U.S.C.;

(b) it is disclosed to the department of public health and human services for use in administering Title IV-D of the Social Security Act;

(c) the release of the social security number is specifically authorized by law, but only the final four numbers of a social security number may be released to county government election officials verifying voter registration information; or

(d) it is disclosed to the department of revenue for use in administering and enforcing Montana's income tax laws. The department of revenue shall treat social security numbers received pursuant to this subsection (2)(d) as confidential pursuant to 15-30-2618.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 445, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 538, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 627, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 538, L. 2023, in (1)(b)(i) after "functions, including" inserted "county government elections officials verifying voter registration information and"; in (2)(c) inserted final clause regarding disclosure of only the final four numbers of a social security number; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 627, L. 2023, in (2)(a) and (2)(b) at beginning inserted "it is disclosed"; inserted (2)(d) regarding the department of revenue; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

61-11-509. Permitted disclosure of personal information, excluding highly restricted personal information — specific uses. Upon application, proof of the identity of the person requesting a record, and payment of the fees required in 61-11-510 and subject to the provisions of 61-11-105, the department may disclose personal information, excluding highly restricted personal information, from a motor vehicle record to a person who represents that the use of the personal information will be limited to one or more of the following uses:

(1) in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees, or contractors, but only:

(a) to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors; and

(b) if the submitted information is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information for the purposes of preventing fraud by pursuing legal remedies against or recovering on a debt or security interest against the individual;

(2) by a party in interest, or the agent of a party in interest, in a civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding in any court or government agency or before any self-regulatory body, including the service of process, an investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of any court;

(3) by an insurer or insurance-support organization or a self-insured entity or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with the following arising under insurance policies:

(a) the investigation of claims;

(b) antifraud activities;

(c) ratemaking; or

(d) underwriting;

(4) by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license required under federal or state law;

(5) to conduct research activities and produce statistical reports and journalistic articles as long as the personal information is not published, disclosed to a third party, or used to contact individuals;

(6) to provide notice to the owners of towed, abandoned, or impounded vehicles;

(7) for use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for any purpose provided under this section;

(8) for use in activities pertaining to:

(a) motor vehicle or driver safety and theft;

(b) motor vehicle emissions;

(c) motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories;

(d) performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and

(e) removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers;

(9) for any other use that is specifically related to the operation of a motor vehicle or to public safety and that is authorized by state law; and

(10) for any use by a requester who demonstrates to the department that the requester has obtained the express consent of the person to whom the information pertains.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 533, L. 2003.

61-11-510. Prerequisites to disclosure. (1) Prior to the disclosure of personal information or highly restricted personal information, as provided in 61-11-507, 61-11-508, or 61-11-509, the department shall require the requester to complete and submit an application, in a form prescribed by the department, identifying the requester and specifying the statutorily recognized uses for which the personal information or highly restricted personal information is being sought.

(2) The department shall require the requester to provide identification acceptable to the department.

(3) (a) The department shall collect the appropriate fees paid by the requester and shall determine the amount of the fees in accordance with 61-3-101, 61-11-105, and this subsection (3), and as appropriate, in accordance with the terms of a contract between the department and the requester.

(b) The department shall ensure that fees established by policy or contract:

(i) recover the department's cost and expenses as provided in 2-6-1006 and 61-3-101;

(ii) include an additional amount necessary to compensate the department for costs associated with developing and maintaining the database from which information is requested; and

(iii) incorporate, when applicable, the convenience fee established under 2-17-1103.

(c) Except as provided in 61-11-105(5)(b) and subsection (3)(d) of this section, the department shall charge a fee to any person, including a representative of a federal, state, or local government entity or member of the news media who requests information under this section.

(d) The department may not charge a fee for information requested by the governor's office of budget and program planning, the Montana tax appeal board, the department of revenue, any legislative branch agency or committee, or any criminal justice agency, as defined in 44-5-103.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 363, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 533, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 348, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 142, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 627, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 627, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

61-11-511 through 61-11-514 reserved.

61-11-515. Sale or disclosure of personal information by recipient. (1) A requester who receives personal information or highly restricted personal information pursuant to 61-11-507, 61-11-508, 61-11-509, or 61-11-510 may not sell or disclose the information, except for a use that is specifically permitted in 61-11-507, 61-11-508, or 61-11-509.

(2) A requester who sells or discloses personal information or highly restricted personal information to a third party under this section shall create and maintain records for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of the sale or disclosure. The records must show the name, address, telephone number, and any other identifying information required by the department of the third party who bought or received the information and must document the permitted use for which the information was obtained. The records must be produced or made available for inspection at the request of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 363, L. 2001.**

61-11-516. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 363, L. 2001.**

CHAPTER 12
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

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61-12-901. Manufactured home dealers — licensure — bond requirements — rulemaking.

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61-12-1001. Definitions.
61-12-1002. Ownership of recorded data.
61-12-1003. Effect of vehicle ownership transfer on ownership of data — prohibited insurer and lessor actions.
61-12-1004. Retrieval or use of data — exceptions.

Part 1
Powers of Local Authorities

Part Cross-References

County roads, Title 7, ch. 14, parts 21 through 26.
Municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.

61-12-101. Powers of local authorities to regulate traffic. (1) The provisions of chapters 8 and 9 do not prevent local authorities with respect to sidewalks, streets, and highways under their jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of the police power from:

(a) regulating the standing or parking of vehicles;

(b) regulating the traffic by means of police officers or traffic control devices;

(c) regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages on the highways;

(d) designating particular highways as one-way highways and requiring that all vehicles on those highways be moved in one specific direction;

(e) regulating the speed of vehicles in public parks;

(f) designating any highway as a through highway, as defined in 61-8-341, and requiring that all vehicles stop before entering or crossing a through highway and designating any intersection, as defined in 61-8-102, as a stop intersection and requiring all vehicles to stop at one or more entrances to stop intersections;

(g) restricting the use of highways as authorized in 61-10-128(2);

(h) regulating the operation of bicycles or mopeds, as defined in 61-8-102, and requiring the registration and licensing of bicycles or mopeds, including requiring a registration fee;

(i) regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types of vehicles at intersections;

(j) altering the speed limits as authorized in Title 7, chapter 14, and Title 61, chapter 8;

(k) regulating the operating of a vehicle by a person who is a habitual user of or under the influence of any narcotic drug or who is under the influence of any other drug to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely operating a vehicle within the incorporated limits of any city or town;

(l) regulating or prohibiting a person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor from operating or being in actual physical control of a vehicle within the incorporated limits of a city or town;

(m) regulating or prohibiting the operation of a vehicle by a person in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property within the incorporated limits of a city or town;

(n) enacting as ordinances any provisions of chapter 8 or 9 and any other law regulating traffic, pedestrians, vehicles, and operators of vehicles that are not in conflict with state law or federal regulations and enforcing the ordinances;

(o) regulating the operation of motorized nonstandard vehicles on sidewalks, streets, and highways; and

(p) regulating the operation of golf carts on streets and highways.

(2) The powers of a local authority to regulate traffic do not include the power to require a fee and a permit for the movement of a vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing of a size exceeding the maximum specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104 on a highway that is under the jurisdiction of an entity other than the local authority.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 263, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-2131; amd. Secs. 9, 11, Ch. 468, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 232, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 173, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 374, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Municipal trafficways and public grounds, Title 7, ch. 14, part 41.
No authority for municipality to require fee and permit for oversize vehicles, 7-14-4116.
Municipal parking, Title 7, ch. 14, part 45.
Stop, stopping, or standing defined, 61-1-101.
Parking defined, 61-4-131.
Intersection defined, 61-8-102.
Traffic provisions uniform throughout state — power of local authorities, 61-8-103.
Local traffic control devices, 61-8-206.
When local authorities may and shall alter speed limits, 61-8-310.
Additional parking regulations, 61-8-355.

61-12-102. Private parking services — parking citations. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local government" means a municipality, if the private parking service operates parking services within a municipality, or a county, if the services are not operated within a municipality.

(b) "Private parking service" means the service of providing areas for parking motor vehicles by the general public for compensation and includes those services conducted:

(i) on private property; or

(ii) on public property under contract or agreement with the local government.

(2) A local government may by ordinance allow a private parking service to impound a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle may not be impounded by attaching a device that makes the motor vehicle immobile.

(3) A private parking service may enter into an agreement with the local government to authorize employees of the private parking service to issue citations for parking violations as defined by state, municipal, or county laws, that occur within the boundaries of the private parking service's parking areas. All citations must be considered within the jurisdiction of the local government and must be handled in the same manner as citations issued by peace officers of the local government.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 233, Ch. 542, L. 2005.

Part 2
Enforcement by Department of Transportation Personnel

Part Cross-References

Duties of Department of Transportation, 60-2-202.

61-12-201. Appointment of employees and out-of-state personnel as peace officers — definition. (1) The director of transportation may appoint employees of the department as peace officers to carry out this part. The employees appointed may include only those employees of the department who are employed in the administration of the motor carrier services functions of the department and employees of other states. Out-of-state personnel may be appointed only for the purpose of enforcing gross vehicle weight laws at joint weigh station facilities. Each employee appointed must be issued a certificate of appointment and execute an oath of office, which must be entered into the records of the department.

(2) The department may enter into joint weigh station agreements with other states. If the department enters into a joint weigh station agreement with another state, the department may not reduce staff levels in the motor carrier services division of the department as a result of the agreement but may reassign staff. However, this subsection does not apply to a reduction in force for the department as a whole.

(3) As used in this part, "department" means the department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1632; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 256, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Oaths, Title 1, ch. 6, part 1.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Peace officer defined, 45-2-101.
Ports of entry and checking stations, Title 60, ch. 2, part 3.
Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads, 61-10-141.
Size, weight, and load — enforcement, 61-10-231.

61-12-202. Training of department peace officers — rules. (1) The department shall provide training as required to qualify employees to competently perform their duties under this part and shall adopt rules that are required and necessary for qualification of those employees as peace officers.

(2) An employee may not make arrests until the employee has successfully completed the training as required by the department.

History: En. Secs. 2, 3, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Secs. 43, 44, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1633, 32-1634; amd. Sec. 1967, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Functions of Board of Crime Control — qualifications for peace officers, 44-7-101.
Arrest by peace officer, Title 46, ch. 6, part 4.

61-12-203. Official attire required for making arrests and carrying firearms. Qualified employees may make arrests throughout the state only when dressed in official uniform and displaying the official badge authorized by the department. Authorized employees may not carry firearms unless officially attired.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1635.

61-12-204. Identification badge and uniform — safety equipment. (1) Employees of the department engaged in the enforcement of this part shall wear and prominently display an identification badge or device with the employee's name and title shown on the identification badge or device. The department may authorize uniform dress for department employees engaged in such enforcement.

(2) The department may issue soft body armor to an employee engaged in the enforcement of this part upon request of the employee after the employee's appointment as a peace officer.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1637; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 333, L. 1991.

61-12-205. Power to inspect vehicle registration, receipts, and other documents. Employees of the department designated or appointed as peace officers under 61-10-154 or 61-12-201 may when officially dressed make reasonable inspections of vehicle registration receipts, department receipts and registrations, special permits, and other documents required to be carried in or for a vehicle traveling on the public highways of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1636; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 366, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Registration, Title 61, ch. 3, part 3.
Standards, permits, and fees, Title 61, ch. 10, part 1.
Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads, 61-10-141.
Size, weight, and load — enforcement, 61-10-231.

61-12-206. Offenses for which arrest authorized. Employees designated or appointed as peace officers under 61-10-154 or 61-12-201 may make arrests for violations of the following statutory provisions:

(1) chapters 3 and 5 of this title, but only if the vehicle involved is subject to 61-10-141;
(2) chapter 10 of this title;

(3) part 3, chapter 4, of this title;
(4) 15-24-201 through 15-24-205;
(5) Title 15, chapter 70, part 4;
(6) 61-10-154 and safety rules adopted under that section; and
(7) Title 69, chapter 12.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1639; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 39, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 575, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 10, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 538, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 125, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 366, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 220, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Arrest, Title 46, ch. 6.

61-12-207. Cooperation with other agencies. Such employees of the department shall cooperate with other law enforcement agencies.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1640.**

Cross-References

Mutual assistance — rights of assisting officers, Title 44, ch. 11, part 1.

61-12-208. Duty upon making arrest — power to fix and accept bail. Employees designated or appointed as peace officers under 61-10-154 or 61-12-201, upon making an arrest, shall deliver to the offender a form of notice to appear, describing the nature of the offense, with instructions on the notice for the offender to report to the nearest justice of the peace. The employee may accept a deposit for appearance justifiable for the offense charged. The person who is arrested may be detained for a reasonable time for the purpose of issuing the notice or of awaiting the arrival of another peace officer who has been called to the scene, or the person may be transported, as provided in 46-7-101. If the employee accepts bail, the employee shall give a signed receipt to the offender, setting forth the amount received. The employee shall then deliver the bail money to the justice of the peace before whom the offender is to appear, and the justice of the peace shall give a receipt to the employee for the amount of bail money delivered. After the filing of the complaint and appearance of the defendant, the justice of the peace shall assume jurisdiction and may set and accept further appearance bail bond.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 242, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-1641; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 360, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 366, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Duties of Justices of the Peace, 3-10-221.
Justices of the Peace — collection and payment of money, 3-10-222.
Procedure when patrol officer accepts bail, 44-1-1102.
Arrest by peace officer, Title 46, ch. 6, part 4.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.

Part 3
Motor Club Service Companies

Part Cross-References

Motor vehicle liability insurance, Title 33, ch. 23, part 2.

61-12-301. Terms defined. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agent" means a person who solicits the purchase of service contracts or transmits for another a service contract or application for a service contract to or from the company or who acts or aids in any manner in the delivery or negotiation of any service contract or of the renewal or continuance of a service contract.

(2) "Bail bond service" means any act or acts by a company the purpose of which is to furnish or procure for any person accused of violation of any law of this state a cash deposit, bond, or other undertaking required by law in order that the accused might enjoy the accused's personal freedom pending trial.

(3) "Buying and selling service" means any act or acts of a company whereby the holder of a service contract with the company is aided in any way in the purchase or sale of an automobile.

(4) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance of the state of Montana or the commissioner's assistants or deputies or other persons authorized to act for the commissioner.

(5) "Company" means any person, firm, partnership, company, association, or corporation engaged in selling, furnishing, or procuring, either as principal or agent, for a consideration, motor club service.

(6) "Discount service" means any act or acts by a company resulting in the giving of special discounts, rebates, or reductions of price on gasoline, oil, repairs, insurance, parts, accessories, or service for motor vehicles to holders of service contracts with the company.

(7) "Emergency road service" means any act or acts by a company consisting of the adjustment, repair, or replacement of the equipment, tires, or mechanical parts of any automobile so as to permit it to be operated under its own power.

(8) "Financial service" means any act or acts by a company whereby loans or other advances of money, with or without security, are made to holders of service contracts with the company.

(9) "Legal service" means any act or acts by a company consisting of the hiring, retaining, engaging, or appointing of an attorney or other person to give professional advice to or represent holders of service contracts with the company in court as the result of liability incurred by the right of action accruing to the holder of a service contract as a result of the ownership, operation, use, or maintenance of a motor vehicle.

(10) "Map service" means any act or acts by a company by which road maps are furnished without cost to holders of service contracts with the company.

(11) "Motor club service" means the rendering, furnishing, or procuring of towing service, emergency road service, insurance service, bail bond service, legal service, discount service, financial service, buying and selling service, theft service, map service, and touring service, or any three or more enumerated services to any person or persons in connection with the ownership, operation, use, or maintenance of a motor vehicle by the other person or persons in consideration of the other person or persons being or becoming a member or members of any company rendering, procuring, or furnishing the services, being or becoming in any manner affiliated with the company, or being or becoming entitled to receive membership or other motor club service from the company by virtue of any agreement or understanding with the company.

(12) "Service contract" means any agreement or understanding whereby any company for a consideration promises to render, furnish, or procure for any other person or persons, whether they be members of the company or otherwise, motor club service.

(13) "Theft service" means any act or acts by a company the purpose of which is to locate, identify, or recover a motor vehicle owned or controlled by the holder of a service contract with the company that has been or may be stolen or to detect or apprehend the person guilty of the theft.

(14) "Touring service" means any act or acts by a company by which touring information is furnished without cost to holders of service contracts with the company.

(15) "Towing service" means any act or acts by a company consisting of the drafting or moving of a motor vehicle from one place to another under other than its own power.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1101; amd. Sec. 1968, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Insurance, Title 33.
Insurance Commissioner and Department — powers and duties, Title 33, ch. 1, part 3.
Theft, 45-6-301.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.

61-12-302. Companies and agents to be licensed. No company or any agent, as herein defined, doing business in this state shall execute, issue, or deliver any service contract to any person or persons owning or operating motor vehicles without first having obtained a license from the commissioner as provided for in this part, nor shall any such company or agent collect or receive from any person or persons in advance of the execution, issuance, or delivery of any such service contract any money or other thing of value upon any promise or agreement to execute, issue, or deliver any such service contract without first having obtained a license from said commissioner as provided for in this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1102.

Cross-References

Authorization of insurers, Title 33, ch. 2, part 1.

61-12-303. Requirements for license. (1) The commissioner may not issue a license to a company until the company has filed the following:

(a) a formal application in the form and detail that the commissioner may require, executed under oath by its president or other principal officer;

(b) a copy of the form of its contract;

(c) a certified copy of its charter or articles of incorporation and its bylaws, if any;

(d) a financial statement in the form and detail that the commissioner may require, executed on oath by its president or other principal officer;

(e) a certificate from the commissioner that it has complied with 61-12-304 in all cases in which a deposit of cash or a bond is required by this part;

(f) if the company is a corporation, a certificate from the secretary of state that the company has complied with this state's corporate laws.

(2) The commissioner may not issue a license to a company until the company has paid to the commissioner $100 as an annual license fee or the pro rata portion of the $100 necessary to be paid to the end of the current calendar year from the date of the application for the license.

(3) The commissioner may not issue a license to a company until the company has satisfied by an examination and evidence that the commissioner may require that the company has complied with the laws of the state, that its management is trustworthy and competent, and that the company is financially responsible.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1103; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 798, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 472, L. 1999.

61-12-304. Deposits required. The commissioner may not grant a license to a company until it has deposited with the commissioner the sum of $25,000 in cash or in lieu thereof a bond in a form prescribed by the commissioner payable to the state of Montana in the sum of $25,000, with surety approved by the commissioner, conditioned upon the faithful performance of its service contracts and payment of any fines or penalties levied against it for failure to comply with this part. However, when any company proves to the commissioner that it has been in continuous, active operation in the state for a period of more than the preceding 5 years and has a paid membership of more than 5,000 members within the state or that there are more than 5,000 holders of its service contracts within the state and that it is being properly managed, is rendering to its members the services promised to them, and is financially responsible, the commissioner may not require a cash deposit or bond while the company remains in that condition. The cash deposit or bond is not a penalty but is for the protection of the public only.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1104; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 798, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Insurance companies — deposit requirement, 33-2-111.

61-12-305. Continuance of license. Subject to payment by January 1 of each year of the annual license fee required under 61-12-303, each license continues in force as long as the company is entitled to the license under this part or until the license is revoked, suspended, or otherwise terminated.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1105; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 798, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Insurance companies — continuance, expiration, reinstatement, and amendment of certificate of authority, 33-2-117.

61-12-306. Revocation of license. If the commissioner at any time for cause shown and after a hearing determines that a company has violated any provision of this part, that it is insolvent or that its assets are less than its liabilities, that it or its officers refuse to submit to an examination, that it is transacting business fraudulently, or that its management or business methods are improper or hazardous to the holders of its service contracts, the commissioner shall revoke or suspend its license and shall give notice of the suspension or revocation to the public in a manner that the commissioner considers proper.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1106; amd. Sec. 1969, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Insurance companies — mandatory revocation or suspension of certificate of authority, 33-2-118.

61-12-307. Financial statement to be filed. A company shall annually, on or before February 1 of each year, file with the commissioner a financial statement in the form and detail that the commissioner may prescribe, executed on oath by its president or other principal officer, showing its financial condition on December 31 of the preceding year.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.7, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1107; amd. Sec. 1970, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Insurance companies — annual statement, 33-2-701.

61-12-308. Service contract to be filed with commissioner. A service contract may not be executed, issued, or delivered in this state until a copy of the form of the contract has been on file for 30 days with the commissioner, unless before the expiration of 30 days the commissioner has approved the form in writing. A service contract may not be executed, issued, or delivered at any time in this state if the commissioner notified the company in writing within the 30-day period that in the commissioner's opinion the form of the contract does not comply with the laws of this state, specifying the reasons for the opinion.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1108; amd. Sec. 1971, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Commissioner — records and certificates, 33-1-312.

61-12-309. Contracts to be in duplicate. Every service contract executed, issued, or delivered in this state shall be made in duplicate, and shall be signed by the company issuing the same, or by its duly authorized agent, and by the party purchasing the same, and one copy thereof shall be kept by said company, and the other copy shall be delivered to the party purchasing the same.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.9, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1109.

Cross-References

Insurance — execution of policies, 33-15-306.

61-12-310. Form of contract. A motor club service contract may not be executed, issued, or delivered in this state unless it contains the following:

(1) the name of the motor club service company;

(2) the location of its home office, giving street number, city, and state;

(3) a provision that the contract may be canceled at any time by either the company or the holder and that the holder is, if the holder has actually paid the consideration, entitled to the unused portion of the consideration paid for the contract, calculated on a pro rata basis without any deductions;

(4) a provision plainly specifying the services promised and that the holder is not required to pay any sum for any services specified in the contract in addition to the amount specified in the contract and further specifying the territory where the services are to be rendered and the date when the service commences.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1110; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 227, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Insurance — policy provisions, Title 33, ch. 15, part 3.

61-12-311. Companies to be licensed. No person shall solicit or aid in the solicitation of another person to purchase a service contract issued by a company not duly licensed under this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.11, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1111.

Cross-References

Authorization of insurers, Title 33, ch. 2, part 1.

61-12-312. Contract not to be misrepresented. No company and no officer or agent thereof shall orally or in writing misrepresent the terms, benefits, or privileges of any service contract issued or to be issued by it.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.12, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1112.

Cross-References

Insurance policy must contain entire contract, 33-15-302.

61-12-313. Contracts binding on company although not complying with part. Any service contract made, issued, or delivered contrary to any provision of this part shall nevertheless be valid and binding on the company.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.13, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1113.

Cross-References

Validity of noncomplying insurance forms, 33-15-315.

61-12-314. Applicability. This part does not apply to:

(1) a duly authorized attorney at law acting in the usual course of the profession;

(2) an insurance company, bonding company, or surety company licensed and doing business as the licensed company under the laws of the state; or

(3) a company or agent that contracts with a motor club service company licensed under this part to provide emergency road service or towing service to the company's or agent's customers.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.14, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1114; amd. Sec. 1972, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Insurance, Title 33.
Attorneys at law, Title 37, ch. 61.

61-12-315. Penalty for violation. A person violating the provisions of this part is liable pursuant to 33-1-317.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 131, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 4211.15, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 66-1115; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 227, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

Part 4
Removal and Sale of Abandoned Vehicles

Part Cross-References

Sale of attached property, Title 27, ch. 18, part 8.
Motor vehicle recycling and disposal, Title 75, ch. 10, part 5.

61-12-401. Taking vehicle into custody. (1) The following law enforcement agencies and department of fish, wildlife, and parks personnel may take into custody any vehicle found abandoned for a period of 48 hours or more on a public highway or for a period of 5 days or more on a city street, public property, or private property:

(a) the Montana highway patrol if the vehicle is on the right-of-way of any public highway other than a county road;

(b) the sheriff of the county if the vehicle is on the right-of-way of any county road;

(c) the city police if the vehicle is on a city street;

(d) a tribal law enforcement agency if the tribal government has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Montana highway patrol, the sheriff of a county, or the city police. When a cooperative agreement for law enforcement has been entered into, the tribal law enforcement agency has the same authority to take a vehicle into custody and is subject to the same requirements under this part as the applicable agency identified in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c);

(e) a game warden, as defined in 19-8-101, if the vehicle is on state land or land managed by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks.

(2) The Montana highway patrol, sheriff of the county, city police, tribal law enforcement agency, or department of fish, wildlife, and parks may use their personnel, equipment, and facilities for the removal and storage of the vehicle or may hire other personnel, equipment, and facilities for those purposes.

(3) If the Montana highway patrol, the sheriff of the county, the chief of police, the tribal law enforcement agency of the reservation, or the department of fish, wildlife, and parks has hired other personnel, equipment, and facilities to remove and store a vehicle, the Montana highway patrol, sheriff, chief of police, tribal law enforcement agency, or department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall:

(a) pay the person hired to remove the vehicle an amount not to exceed the amount for a removal charge established by rules adopted by the department of environmental quality and may request reimbursement of the hired removal charge from the motor vehicle recycling and disposal program of the department of environmental quality in an amount and manner established by rules adopted by the department of environmental quality for this purpose; or

(b) authorize the person hired to remove the vehicle to submit directly to the department of environmental quality a claim for payment to be made directly to the person hired to remove the vehicle.

(4) (a) At the request of the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the private property, the sheriff of the county in which the vehicle is located, the city police of the city in which the vehicle is located, or the tribal law enforcement agency of the reservation in which the vehicle is located may remove and hold it in the manner and upon the conditions provided in subsections (1) and (2).

(b) A private landowner owning property considered to be part of ways of this state open to the public, as defined in 61-8-101, who can demonstrate meeting the 5-day waiting period in subsection (1) by calling one of the law enforcement agencies listed in subsection (1) at the start of the 5-day period may remove the abandoned vehicle within the conditions provided for in subsections (1) and (2).

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 169, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 53-902; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 88, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 461, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Sheriff — duties, 7-32-2121.
Municipal police force, Title 7, ch. 32, part 41.
Highway patrol jurisdiction, Title 44, ch. 1, part 10.
Officers or highway patrol officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles, 61-8-705.

61-12-402. Notice to owner. (1) Within 72 hours after a vehicle is removed and held by or at the direction of the Montana highway patrol, the highway patrol shall notify the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the vehicle is being stored of where and when the vehicle was taken into custody and of where the vehicle is being stored. In addition, the Montana highway patrol shall furnish the sheriff or the chief of police:

(a) a complete description of the vehicle, including year, make, model, serial number, and license number if available;

(b) any costs incurred to that date in the removal, storage, and custody of the vehicle; and

(c) any available information concerning the vehicle's ownership.

(2) The highway patrol shall notify the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the vehicle was taken into custody of the location at which the vehicle is being stored if the vehicle was removed to a different county.

(3) The sheriff or the city police in the jurisdiction where the vehicle is being stored shall make reasonable efforts to ascertain the name and address of the owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle taken into custody under 61-12-401. If a name and address are ascertained, the sheriff or the city police shall notify the owner, lienholder, or person of the location of the vehicle.

(4) If the vehicle is registered in the office of the department, notice is considered to have been given when a certified letter addressed to the registered owner of the vehicle and lienholder, if any, at the latest address shown by the records in the office of the department, return receipt requested and postage prepaid, is mailed at least 30 days before the vehicle is sold as provided in 61-12-404(1)(a) or at least 60 days before the vehicle is sold as provided in 61-12-404(1)(b).

(5) If the identity of the last-registered owner cannot be determined, if the registration does not contain an address for the owner, or if it is impossible to determine with reasonable certainty the identity and addresses of all lienholders, notice by one publication in one newspaper of general circulation in the county where the motor vehicle is being stored is sufficient to meet all requirements of notice pursuant to this part. The notice by publication may contain multiple listings of abandoned vehicles. The notice must be provided in the same manner as prescribed in 25-13-701(1)(b).

(6) If the abandoned vehicle is in the possession of a motor vehicle wrecking facility licensed under 75-10-511, the wrecking facility may make the required search to ascertain the

name and address of the owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle and shall give the notices required in subsections (3) through (5). The wrecking facility shall deliver to the sheriff or the city police a certificate describing the efforts made to ascertain the name and address of the owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle and shall deliver to the sheriff or the city police proof of the notice given.

(7) (a) (i) A vehicle found by law enforcement officials to be a junk vehicle, as defined in 75-10-501, and that has a value of $500 or less may be directly submitted for disposal in accordance with the provisions of Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, upon a release given by the sheriff or the city police. The county representative designated to implement the county motor vehicle recycling and disposal program pursuant to 75-10-521 for the county where the vehicle is being stored shall determine the value of the vehicle. In the release, the sheriff or the city police shall include a description of the vehicle, including year, make, model, serial number, and license number if available. If the vehicle is being stored by a motor vehicle wrecking facility, the sheriff or the city police shall transmit the release to the motor vehicle wrecking facility and the facility shall consider the release to meet the requirements for records under 61-3-225 and 75-10-512. If the vehicle is being stored by a qualified tow truck operator, as defined in 61-8-903, the sheriff or the city police shall transmit the release to the operator. Vehicles described in this section may be submitted for disposal without notice and without a required holding period.

(ii) A junk nonmotorized vehicle, as defined in 75-10-501, may be submitted for disposal as provided in this subsection (7)(a) pursuant to the same provisions as a junk vehicle if the county has agreed to accept junk nonmotorized vehicles for disposal pursuant to 75-10-521(10).

(b) A licensed vehicle that otherwise meets the definition of a junk vehicle, as defined in 75-10-501, and that has a value of $500 or less may be directly submitted for disposal as provided in subsection (7)(a).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 288, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 53-903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 88, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 496, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 427, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 1, Ch. 454, L. 2023, repealed sec. 5, Ch. 427, L. 2019, and sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2021, which terminated the 2019 amendments to this section June 30, 2023. Effective May 8, 2023.

Cross-References

Notice — actual and constructive, 1-1-217.
Filing of security interests, rights, procedure, and fees, 61-3-103.
Registration receipts, 61-3-322.

61-12-403. Reclaiming vehicle. The owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle may reclaim it at any time after it is taken into custody and before it is sold. The owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle shall present to the sheriff of the county or the city police of the city where the vehicle is being stored satisfactory proof of ownership or right to possession and shall pay the costs and expenses incurred in the removal, storage, and custody of the vehicle. The person reclaiming the vehicle may not be required to pay storage charges for a period longer than 90 days.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-904; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 88, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Fees of Sheriff for holding property, 7-32-2142.
Certificate of title, 61-3-202.
Involuntary deposit — how made, 70-6-103.
Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

61-12-404. Sale or release of vehicle if not reclaimed. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), if a vehicle is not reclaimed, as provided in 61-12-403, within 30 days after notification by certified mail or prescribed publication, the sheriff of the county or the city police of the city in which the vehicle is being stored may sell it at public auction in the manner provided in 25-13-701 through 25-13-709.

(b) When a vehicle is taken into custody as a result of the arrest of the driver of the vehicle, the owner, lienholder, or person entitled to possession of the vehicle has 60 days after notification by certified mail or prescribed publication to reclaim the vehicle as provided in

61-12-403. If the vehicle is not reclaimed within 60 days after notification, the vehicle may be considered abandoned and may be sold under the provisions of this section.

(2) If the sheriff or city police elect not to sell a vehicle under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) and the vehicle is being stored by a qualified tow truck operator, as defined in 61-8-903, the sheriff or city police shall release the vehicle to the qualified tow truck operator.

(3) After a vehicle has been sold pursuant to subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) or released pursuant to subsection (2), the former owner or person entitled to possession has no further right, title, claim, or interest in or to the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-905; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 355, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 513, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 176, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Bailment — sale to pay costs of storage, 70-6-411.

61-12-405. Certificate of sale or release. (1) (a) If a vehicle is sold as provided in 61-12-404(1)(a) or (1)(b), the sheriff or the city police at the time of the payment of the purchase price shall execute a certificate of sale in duplicate and shall deliver the original certificate to the purchaser and retain the copy.

(b) The certificate of sale must contain the name and address of the purchaser, the date of sale, the consideration paid, a description of the vehicle, and a stipulation that no warranty is made as to the condition or title of the vehicle.

(2) (a) If a vehicle is released as provided in 61-12-404(2), the sheriff or city police shall execute a certificate of release to the qualified tow truck operator in duplicate and shall deliver the original certificate to the operator and retain the copy.

(b) The certificate of release must contain the name and address of the operator, the date of release, a description of the vehicle, including year, make, model, serial number, and license number if available, and a stipulation that no warranty is made as to the condition or title of the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-906; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 355, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 176, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 165, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Sale of attached property, Title 27, ch. 18, part 8.

61-12-406. Issuing certificate of title. The department shall issue a certificate of title upon presentation by the purchaser of the certificate of sale or upon presentation by the operator of a certificate of release and payment of the fees required by law.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 176, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Certificates of title, Title 61, ch. 3, part 2.

New registration required for transferred vehicle, 61-3-317.

61-12-407. Transmitting return of sale and balance of proceeds. (1) When any vehicle is sold as provided in 61-12-404, the sheriff or the city police shall transmit to the department and to the county treasurer or to the city treasurer, respectively, a return of sale setting forth a description of the vehicle, the purchase price, the name and address of the purchaser, the costs incurred in the sale, and the costs and expenses incurred in the removal, storage, and custody of the vehicle.

(2) With the return of sale, the sheriff shall transmit to the county treasurer or the city police shall transmit to the city treasurer the balance of the proceeds of the sale after deducting the costs incurred in the sale and the costs and expenses incurred in the removal, storage, and custody of the vehicle.

(3) Upon receipt of the return of sale and the balance from:

(a) the county sheriff, the county treasurer shall file the return in the treasurer's office and deposit the balance in the county road fund on all vehicles seized by the sheriff or highway patrol; or

(b) the city police, the city treasurer shall file the return in the treasurer's office and deposit the balance in the city street fund on all vehicles seized by the city police.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-908; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 355, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 88, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1973, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of County Treasurer, 7-6-2111.
City and county road funds, 7-14-2512.
Fees of Sheriff for holding property, 7-32-2142.
Sale of property subject to security interest — disposition of proceeds — security agreement, 27-18-804.

61-12-408. Penalty. Any person or persons violating the provisions of this part shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $300 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 5 days or more than 90 days or by both fine and imprisonment.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 288, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 53-909(part).

Cross-References

Classification of offenses, 45-1-201.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

Part 5
Identification Cards

61-12-501. Authority of department to issue identification cards — lawful presence verification. (1) The department may issue an identification card to any person who maintains a residence in this state and whose presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.

(2) When an applicant who is not a citizen of the United States applies for an identification card, the department shall verify that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States by using the federal systematic alien verification for entitlements program.

(3) A person may only have one nonvoided driver's license or identification card issued by the department at any time.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 31-170; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 346, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 686, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Driver's licenses — application of minors, 61-5-108.
Authority of Department to suspend licenses, 61-5-206.

61-12-502. Veteran designation. The department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of an identification card if the requirements of 61-5-111(7) are met by the person applying for the identification card.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 31-171; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 322, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

61-12-503. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 53, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 31-173; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985.

61-12-504. Fees for identification cards — expiration of cards. (1) Upon application for an identification card issued pursuant to this part, a fee of $16 must be collected and deposited in the general fund.

(2) A person with a disability, as defined in 39-30-103, may obtain a free identification card. An individual discharged from any correctional facility must be furnished a free identification card upon release, discharge, or parole.

(3) (a) An identification card expires on the anniversary of the cardholder's date of birth 8 years after the date of issue.

(b) An identification card issued to a person whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized under federal laws expires, as determined by the department, no later than the expiration date of the official document issued to the person by the United States citizenship and immigration services of the department of homeland security that authorizes the person's presence in the United States.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 53, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 31-174; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1985; amd. Secs. 4, 6, Ch. 5, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 346, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 686, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 686, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

Part 6
Jurisdiction Over Minors
(Repealed)

61-12-601. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 484, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-163.

61-12-602. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 484, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 215, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 188, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-164.

61-12-603. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 484, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 215, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 32-21-165.

Part 7
Disposition of Fines

61-12-701. Disposition of fines and forfeitures. All fines and forfeitures collected in any court, except a justice's court, for violation of the laws and regulations relating to the use of state highways and the operation of vehicles on state highways, if the apprehension or arrest was by a highway patrol officer, must be paid to the department of revenue for credit to the state general fund or, if the apprehension or arrest was by a sheriff or deputy sheriff, must be paid to the county treasurer for deposit in the county general fund, except for that portion of the fines otherwise allocated by law, which must be paid into the appropriate accounts in the state special revenue fund.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 199, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 226, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 214, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 31-114; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 13, Sp. L. August 2002.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Office of County Treasurer, Title 7, ch. 6, part 21.
General fiscal duties of State Treasurer, 17-1-111.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.
State traffic education account — proceeds earmarked for account, 20-7-504.
Disposition of size, weight, and load fines, 61-10-148.

61-12-702. Court costs — fees and expenses of counties. The court, after deducting all costs and fees, shall immediately transmit the balance of the fine to the state or county treasurer as provided by law. The expenses of the county, except fees of officers who are paid a regular salary, are a proper claim against the state or county and claims must be paid in the manner provided by law out of the funds appropriated for such purposes.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 199, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 31-115; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 327, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Claims against county, Title 7, ch. 6, part 24.
Claims against state, Title 17, ch. 8, part 2.
Court costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

61-12-703. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 484, L. 1987.

History: En. 95-2229 by Sec. 11, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 184, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2229; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 421, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1985.

Part 8
Disclosure of Data From Rental Vehicles

61-12-801. Disclosure of data from rental vehicle — definitions. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), a rental vehicle entity that rents a rental vehicle equipped with a global positioning system or a satellite navigation system to a person in this state shall disclose in the rental agreement or a written addendum to the rental agreement the presence and purpose of the system.

(b) A rental vehicle entity that uses a global positioning system or a satellite navigation system only to track lost or stolen vehicles or provide navigational services is not required to provide the disclosure in subsection (1)(a).

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "rental agreement" means a written agreement setting forth the terms and conditions governing the use of a rental vehicle that is provided by a rental vehicle entity for the rental of a rental vehicle for a period of not more than 90 days;

(b) "rental vehicle" means a light vehicle, a motorcycle, a motor-driven cycle, a quadricycle, or an off-highway vehicle that is used under a rental agreement by a person other than the owner of the rental vehicle;

(c) "rental vehicle entity" means a business entity that provides rental vehicles to the public without a driver, pilot, or operator under a rental agreement for a fee.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 2007.

Part 9
Licensure of Manufactured Home Dealers

61-12-901. Manufactured home dealers — licensure — bond requirements — rulemaking. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), a person may not engage in the business of buying, selling, exchanging, accepting on consignment, or acting as a broker of a manufactured home that is not titled in the person's name unless the person is the holder of a manufactured home dealer's license issued by the department.

(b) This section does not apply to a person buying, selling, exchanging, accepting on consignment, or acting as a broker of a used manufactured home that is not titled in the person's name.

(2) (a) The department shall issue a manufactured home dealer's license to any person it determines is qualified to hold the license under the provisions of this section. The department may adopt rules establishing requirements for licensure.

(b) A manufactured home dealer's license authorizes the licensee to:

(i) sell any new manufactured home that is covered under a franchise agreement between the licensee and the manufacturer, importer, or distributor of the manufactured home;

(ii) sell any used manufactured home;

(iii) negotiate the purchase, sale, or exchange of a manufactured home from another licensed dealer or another person on behalf of a client when the licensee does not store, display, or take ownership of the manufactured home purchased, sold, or exchanged.

(3) A license issued by the department is valid until:

(a) voluntarily returned to the department for surrender and cancellation upon the cessation of the licensee's business operations; or

(b) suspended or revoked for a violation of this section or any other laws relating to the sale of a manufactured home.

(4) (a) An applicant for a manufactured home dealer's license shall submit a written application to the department. The application must be signed by the applicant and contain a verification by the applicant, under penalty of law, that the information contained in the application is true and correct. Any information provided in the license application process is subject to independent verification by the department or an authorized representative of the department. The department shall by rule establish the requirements for the application.

(b) After examining a license application and conducting any investigation necessary to verify the information contained in the application, if the department is satisfied that the applicant qualifies for the issuance of a license under the provisions of this section and rules adopted pursuant to this section, the department shall issue the license. The department may refuse, after examination and investigation, to issue a license to an applicant who is not qualified for licensure or whose prior financial or other activities or criminal record, as determined by the department:

(i) poses a threat to the effective regulation of manufactured home dealers;

(ii) poses a threat to the public interest of the state; or

(iii) creates a danger of illegal or deceptive practices being used in the conduct of the proposed dealership.

(5) The application provided to the department must contain but is not limited to the following information:

(a) the name under which the applicant intends to conduct business and the applicant's name, street address, and, if different, mailing address for the business;

(b) the name, date of birth, and social security number of any person who:

(i) possesses or will possess an ownership interest in the business for which the license is sought;

(ii) is a corporate officer or the managing member of a business entity applying for the license; or

(iii) is or will be designated by the applicant to manage or oversee the applicant's business;

(c) the geographic location of the physical lot or lots upon which manufactured homes will be displayed for sale and of a permanent nonresidential building that will be maintained as an office to store the actual physical or electronic records resulting from the purchase, sale, trade, or consignment of manufactured homes for which licensure is sought. The office may be a manufactured home or a site-built structure. The lot must be large enough to contain the office and have space to display a minimum of two double-wide units. An applicant may use more than one location to display manufactured homes for sale if the maximum distance between each display lot does not exceed 200 feet and if the distance between a display lot and the building in which sales records are stored does not exceed 1,000 feet.

(d) for each geographic location specified in the application, evidence of the applicant's compliance with applicable local land use planning, zoning, and business permitting requirements, if any. Evidence of compliance may be documented by means of a written verification of compliance signed by the authorized representative of the local land use planning or zoning board or the local business-permitting agency.

(e) a diagram or plat showing the geographic location, lot dimensions, and building and sign placement for the applicant's proposed established place of business, along with two or more photographs of the geographic location, building premises, and sign, as prescribed by the department. A dealer shall display at the dealer's established place of business at least one sign stating the name of the business and indicating that manufactured homes are offered for sale, trade, or consignment. The letters of the sign must be at least 6 inches in height and clearly visible and readable to the major avenue of traffic at a minimum distance of 150 feet.

(6) If an applicant intends to maintain more than one established place of business, the applicant shall file a separate license application for each proposed place of business and otherwise qualify for licensure at each place separately.

(7) Each application under this section must be accompanied by a $50 fee.

(8) (a) An applicant for a manufactured home dealer's license shall also file a bond of $50,000 with each application.

(b) All bonds must be conditioned upon the applicant conducting the business in accordance with the requirements of the law. All bonds must be approved by the department, filed with the department, and renewed annually.

(9) (a) As used in this section, "manufactured home" means a residential dwelling built in a factory in accordance with the United States department of housing and urban development code and the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards.

(b) The term does not include a mobile home or housetrailer as defined in 15-24-201.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 2009.

Part 10
Recorded Data

61-12-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Event data recorder" has the meaning provided in 49 CFR 563.5 as in effect on October 1, 2011.

(2) "Owner" means a person:

(a) in whose name a motor vehicle is registered or titled;

(b) who leases a motor vehicle for at least 3 months;

(c) who is entitled to possession of a motor vehicle as the purchaser under a security agreement; or

(d) who is the attorney-in-fact, conservator, or personal representative for a person described in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(c).

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2015.**

61-12-1002. Ownership of recorded data. Except as provided in 61-12-1004, the data on a motor vehicle event data recorder is exclusively owned by the owner or owners of the motor vehicle and may not be retrieved or used by any person other than an owner of the motor vehicle without the written consent of an owner.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 272, L. 2015.**

61-12-1003. Effect of vehicle ownership transfer on ownership of data — prohibited insurer and lessor actions. (1) Data on a motor vehicle event data recorder does not become the property of a lienholder or insurer solely because the lienholder or insurer succeeds in ownership of a motor vehicle as a result of an accident.

(2) An insurer may not condition the payment or settlement of an owner's claim on the owner's consent to the retrieval or use of the data on a motor vehicle event data recorder.

(3) An insurer or lessor of a motor vehicle may not require an owner to consent to the retrieval or use of the data on a motor vehicle event data recorder as a condition of providing the policy or lease.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 272, L. 2015.**

61-12-1004. Retrieval or use of data — exceptions. (1) Data from a motor vehicle event data recorder may be retrieved or used without the consent of the owner:

(a) if a court orders the production of the data pursuant to a valid search warrant;

(b) to facilitate or determine the need for emergency medical care for the driver or passenger of a motor vehicle that is involved in a motor vehicle crash or other emergency, including the retrieval of data from a company that provides subscription services to the owner of a motor vehicle for in-vehicle safety and security communications systems;

(c) by order of the district court provided that the owner has notice and 48 hours to object and request a hearing; or

(d) for the purposes of improving motor vehicle safety, security, or traffic management and provided that the identity of the owner or driver is not disclosed in connection with that retrieved data. For purposes of this subsection (1)(d), the disclosure of the vehicle identification number with the last 6 digits deleted does not constitute disclosure of the identity of the owner or driver.

(2) This part does not apply to data that is stored or transmitted pursuant to a subscription service agreement for the use of a recording device to record a history of where a motor vehicle travels or for the transmission of data to a central communications system.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 272, L. 2015.**

CHAPTER 13
SEATBELTS

Part 1 — Montana Seatbelt Use Act

61-13-101. Short title.
61-13-102. Definitions.
61-13-103. Seatbelt use required — exceptions.
61-13-104. Penalty — no record permitted.
61-13-105. Education program.
61-13-106. Evidence not admissible.

Part 1
Montana Seatbelt Use Act

61-13-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Seatbelt Use Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 1987.**

61-13-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of justice.

(2) "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of each publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to public use for vehicular travel.

(3) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle propelled by its own power and designed primarily to transport persons or property upon the highways of the state.

(4) "Occupants" means the driver and passengers in a motor vehicle.

(5) "Seatbelt" means a system using a lap belt, a shoulder belt, or other belt or combination of belts installed in a motor vehicle to restrain occupants, which system conforms to federal motor vehicle safety standards.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1987.

61-13-103. Seatbelt use required — exceptions. (1) A driver may not operate a motor vehicle upon a highway of the state of Montana unless each occupant of a designated seating position is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seatbelt or, if 61-9-420 applies, is properly restrained in a child safety restraint.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) an occupant of a motor vehicle who possesses a written statement from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, that the occupant is unable to wear a seatbelt for medical reasons;

(b) an occupant of a motor vehicle in which all seatbelts are being used by other occupants;

(c) an operator of a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle;

(d) an occupant of a vehicle licensed as special mobile equipment; or

(e) an occupant who makes frequent stops with a motor vehicle during official job duties and who may be exempted by the department.

(3) The department or its agent may not require a driver who may be in violation of this section to stop except:

(a) upon reasonable cause to believe that the driver has violated another traffic regulation or that the driver's vehicle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law; or

(b) if a person in the vehicle who is under 6 years of age and weighs less than 60 pounds is not properly restrained under 61-9-420 or this section.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 439, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 407, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 234, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 242, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

61-13-104. Penalty — no record permitted. (1) A driver who violates 61-13-103 shall be fined $20, but the violation is not a misdemeanor pursuant to 45-2-101, 46-18-236, 61-8-104, or 61-8-711. A violation of 61-13-103 may not be counted as a moving violation for purposes of suspending a driver's license under 61-11-203(2)(m). Bond for this offense is $20, and a jail sentence may not be imposed.

(2) A violation of 61-13-103 may not be recorded or charged against the driver's record of a person violating 61-13-103.

(3) An insurance company may not hold a violation of 61-13-103 against the insured or increase the insured's premiums due to a violation of 61-13-103.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 439, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 218, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 556, L. 2003.

61-13-105. Education program. The highway traffic safety division of the department shall continue its program for public information and education concerning the benefits of wearing seatbelts and include within such program the requirements of 61-13-103 and the penalty specified in 61-13-104.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 439, L. 1987.

61-13-106. Evidence not admissible. Evidence of compliance or failure to comply with 61-13-103 is not admissible in any civil action for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use or operation of a motor vehicle, and failure to comply with 61-13-103 does not constitute negligence.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 439, L. 1987.

CHAPTER 14
RULEMAKING

Part 1 — Vehicle Services

61-14-101. Rulemaking authority — vehicle services.

Part 2 — Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Commercial Driver's Licenses

61-14-201. Rulemaking authority — driver's licenses and identification cards.
61-14-202. Rulemaking authority — commercial driver licensing.

Part 3 — Other Rulemaking Authority

61-14-301. Other rulemaking authority.

Part 1
Vehicle Services

61-14-101. Rulemaking authority — vehicle services. (1) The department shall adopt rules for the registration of motor vehicles, including:

(a) (i) simultaneous registration of multiple motor vehicles that have common ownership;

(ii) defining the term "fleet" as used in 61-3-318 and 61-3-323; and

(iii) the issuance of fleet series license plates provided for in 61-3-325;

(b) verification of compliance with 61-6-301 before registering or renewing a registration of a vehicle or issuing new license plates required by 61-3-332(3);

(c) devising a method to place license plates on the 5-year reissuance cycle to minimize production peaks and valleys;

(d) early registration renewals when an owner of a motor vehicle presents extenuating circumstances; and

(e) automated mailing of license plates by the department or its authorized agent, including an agent under contract with the department pursuant to 61-3-338.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to procure compliance with all of the laws of the state regulating the issuance of motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer licenses relating to the use and operation of motor vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or pole trailers before issuing the lettered license plates pursuant to 61-3-423.

(3) The department may adopt rules to establish vehicle brands or carried-forward brands according to 61-3-202.

(4) The department may adopt rules governing affidavit and bond for certificate of title pursuant to 61-3-208.

(5) The department may adopt rules for the implementation and administration of temporary registration permits, pursuant to 61-3-224, including issuance to:

(a) a Montana resident who acquires a new or used motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for operation of the vehicle or vessel prior to titling and registration of the vehicle or vessel under Title 61, chapter 3;

(b) the owner of a salvage vehicle or a vehicle requiring a state-assigned vehicle identification number to move the vehicle to and from a designated inspection site prior to applying for a new certificate of title under 61-3-107 or 61-3-212;

(c) the owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer registered in this state for operation of the vehicle while awaiting production and receipt of special or duplicate license plates ordered for a vehicle under Title 61, chapter 3;

(d) a nonresident of this state who acquires a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer in this state for operation of the vehicle prior to its titling and registration under the laws of the nonresident's jurisdiction of residence;

(e) a dealer licensed in another state who brings a motor vehicle or trailer designed and used to apply fertilizer to agricultural lands into the state for special demonstration in this state;

(f) a financial institution located in Montana for a prospective purchaser to demonstrate a motor vehicle that the financial institution has obtained following repossession;

(g) an insurer or its agent to move a motor vehicle or trailer to auction following acquisition of the vehicle by the insurer as a result of the settlement of an insurance claim;

(h) a nonresident owner to temporarily operate a quadricycle or motorcycle designed for off-road recreational use on the highways of this state when the quadricycle or motorcycle designed for off-road recreational use is equipped for use on the highways as prescribed in Title 61, chapter 9, but the quadricycle or motorcycle designated for off-road recreational use is not registered or is only registered for off-road use in the nonresident's home state; or

(i) a new owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, motorboat, sailboat that is 12 feet in length or longer, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle for which the new owner cannot, due to circumstances beyond the new owner's control, surrender a previously assigned certification of title.

(6) The department may adopt rules for the assessment and collection of registration fees on light vehicles under 61-3-321 and 61-3-562, including the proration of fees under 61-3-520 and criteria for determining the motor vehicle's age.

(7) The department may adopt rules for imposing and collecting fees in lieu of tax, including:

(a) the proration of fees in lieu of tax under 61-3-520 on buses, trucks having a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than 1 ton, and truck tractors;

(b) criteria for determining the motor vehicle's age; and

(c) criteria for determining the manufacturer's rated capacity.

(8) The department may adopt rules, pursuant to Title 61, chapter 3, for the administration of fees for trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers, including criteria for determining a trailer's age and weight.

(9) The department shall adopt rules for generic specialty license plates issued pursuant to 61-3-472 through 61-3-481, including:

(a) the minimum and maximum number of characters that a generic specialty license plate may display;

(b) the general placement of the sponsor's name, identifying phrase, and graphic; and

(c) any specifications or limitations on the use or choice of color or detail in the sponsor's graphic design.

(10) The department may adopt rules governing dealers pursuant to the provisions of Title 61, chapter 4, including:

(a) the application and issuance of dealer licenses, including the qualifications of dealers, and the staggering of expiration dates pursuant to 61-4-101;

(b) the issuance of dealer, demonstrator, loaner, courtesy, and transit plates pursuant to 61-4-102, 61-4-128 through 61-4-130, 61-4-301, 61-4-307, and 61-4-308;

(c) the application and process for renewing a dealer license pursuant to 61-4-124; and

(d) governing the regulation of persons required to be licensed pursuant to Title 61, chapter 4, part 2.

(11) The department may adopt rules for local option tax appeals pursuant to 15-15-201.

(12) The department may adopt rules to implement any other provision of this title.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 389, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 407, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Commercial Driver's Licenses

61-14-201. Rulemaking authority — driver's licenses and identification cards. (1) The department may adopt rules to administer and enforce the provisions of Title 61, chapter 5.

(2) The department may adopt rules governing acceptable methods of proof of identification, including name, date of birth, and authorized presence, that an individual must submit when applying for a license or identification card, including a new, renewal, or replacement license or identification card.

(3) The department may adopt rules governing the determination of the driver's license expiration date, minimum and maximum license terms, and license renewal requirements for a

driver's license issued to a person who is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized under federal law.

(4) The department shall adopt rules governing the calculation of grace periods for renewals and the calculation of other time periods established by statute or federal regulation.

(5) The department may adopt rules governing the renewal of a driver's license by a person in the military assigned to active duty who had a valid Montana driver's license at the time of entering active duty.

(6) The department shall adopt rules to set the standards for driver license examinations and reexaminations.

(7) The department may adopt rules to set the standards for photographs, certifications, and signature requirements for the issuance of driver's licenses.

(8) The department shall adopt rules establishing the functional abilities and skills required to exercise ordinary and reasonable control to safely operate a motor vehicle. The rules:

(a) must include operational restrictions based on the driver's ability and skills;

(b) may direct the design of one or more types of skills tests. A skills test may consist of:

(i) a comprehensive assessment of a person's functional abilities by means of an actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle; or

(ii) a more limited assessment of a person's functional abilities, conducted at the discretion of the department, as related to a specific physical or mental condition or conditions or a request for reexamination.

(c) must include appropriate licensing criteria relating to the use of adaptive equipment or operational limits that can be readily discerned by law enforcement or a licensing agency in another jurisdiction.

(9) The department shall adopt rules establishing vision requirements for a person to safely operate a motor vehicle. The rules:

(a) must include the minimum uncorrected or corrected visual acuity requirements for both unrestricted and restricted licenses and operational restrictions based on the visual acuity of an applicant or licensee, including the use of bioptic lenses; and

(b) may include minimum field of vision and depth perception requirements for both unrestricted and restricted licenses.

(10) The rules in subsections (8) and (9):

(a) may take into consideration any nationally recognized standards or recommended practices or standards of other jurisdictions for assessment of a person's functional abilities and skills;

(b) may be derived from medical guidelines and information compiled by driver licensing medical advisory or review boards from other jurisdictions, as well as information received from advocacy groups for persons with disabilities and senior citizens; and

(c) except as provided in 61-5-105, may not use a person's age or a person's physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition as a justification for the denial of a license.

(11) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance of a restricted learner license, including when the department may issue a restricted learner license to allow for a driver to practice driving skills.

(12) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance of a hardship license to a person who is at least 13 years of age and because of individual hardship needs a restricted driver's license, including a person who holds a learner license under 61-5-106. The department must consider, among other criteria, whether a hardship license is needed because the applicant's parent or guardian is not available to accompany the licensee, whether due to employment or circumstances related to the operation of a farm or ranch or because the parent or guardian does not hold a valid driver's license, and the licensee is required to drive to the licensee's school bus stop.

(13) The department may adopt rules governing probationary licenses, including:

(a) issuance to a person whose license has been suspended or revoked or whose license is subject to a discretionary suspension or revocation;

(b) the establishment of restrictions placed on a probationary license;

(c) the expiration of a probationary license;

(d) the cancellation of a probationary license for violating the restrictions on the probationary license or for another law violation; and

(e) the issuance, withdrawal, and monitoring of a restricted-use driving permit issued under 61-5-232.

(14) The department may adopt rules governing the requirements for a veteran designation on a driver's license or identification card.

(15) The department may adopt rules governing the issuance of a replacement driver's license.

(16) The department may adopt rules governing the certification process for cooperative driver testing program instructors.

(17) The department may adopt rules for the implementation of online driver's license renewal.

(18) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance, renewal, and cancellation of identification cards that align with the proof of identity, residence, and authorized presence standards for a driver's license.

(19) The department may adopt rules for determining moving violations.

(20) The department may adopt rules for charging a fee for not appearing at a scheduled commercial skills test or motorcycle test and for the waiver of the fee for good cause shown.

(21) The department shall adopt rules governing restrictions for personal communication limitations and other medical information that would be helpful to a peace officer during a traffic stop.

(22) The department may adopt rules governing the conditions under which an applicant is eligible to receive a driver's license or identification card by expedited service and to set the fee for expedited service.

(23) (a) By September 1, 2025, the department shall establish a program that allows every qualifying applicant for a driver's license the option to acquire a digital version of the applicant's driver's license in addition to the physical version issued pursuant to 61-5-116.

(b) By July 1, 2025, the department shall adopt rules to implement subsection (23)(a), including but not limited to issuance requirements, specifications, security and privacy protections, and allowable uses associated with the digital driver's license.

(24) The department may adopt rules to implement any other provision of this title.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

61-14-202. Rulemaking authority — commercial driver licensing. (1) The department shall adopt rules governing the classification of commercial driver's licenses and related endorsements and the examination of commercial driver's license applicants and renewal applicants that the department considers necessary for the safety and welfare of the traveling public. The rules must:

(a) subject to the department's functional and vision requirements, conform to the licensing standards and requirements of 49 CFR, part 383, the medical qualification of 49 CFR, part 391, and the security threat assessment provisions of 49 CFR, part 1572, unless a waiver from a licensing standard or requirement has been granted by the federal department of transportation;

(b) allow for the issuance of an interstate commercial driver's license;

(c) allow for the issuance of an intrastate-only commercial driver's license, including the establishment of medical qualification and visual acuity standards;

[(d) upon receiving a waiver from the federal department of transportation, allow for the issuance of a school bus driver endorsement that waives the knowledge test or skills test based on comparable experience of the endorsement candidate, as established by the department;]

(e) establish the requirement for the issuance of a seasonal commercial driver's license, including the waiver of the knowledge and skills test for a qualified person employed in a farm-related service industry;

(f) establish the operational and seasonal restrictions for a seasonal commercial driver's license;

(g) establish the requirements for the medical statement that must be submitted for a person to be qualified for a commercial driver's license; and

(h) allow for and establish the requirements for the issuance of a commercial learner's permit.

(2) The department shall adopt rules governing the minimum standards for certification of a third-party commercial driver testing program and any test waiver under 61-5-118 and governing the certification, operation, and monitoring of third-party skills testing programs. The rules must:

(a) substantially comply with the licensing standards and requirements of 49 CFR, part 383, and the state compliance standards of 49 CFR, part 384, including:

(i) issuance of a commercial driver's license skills testing certificate to a certified program upon execution of a third-party skills testing agreement;

(ii) requiring that all third-party skills test examiners meet minimum qualifications, including passing background checks paid for by the third-party testing program and successfully completing a formal skills test examiner training course;

(iii) providing examiner test limitations, minimum testing standards, and refresher training requirements; and

(iv) requiring recordkeeping and a detailed audit program that includes overt and covert test monitoring and onsite audits by state and federal personnel;

(b) specifically address the requirements for certifying third-party commercial driver testing programs, including place of business, appropriate bond and liability insurance, and facilities requirements; and

(c) specify minimum technology requirements for recordkeeping, scheduling applicants for the skills test, conducting the skills test, and electronically transferring skills test results to the department.

(3) The department shall adopt rules governing the waiver of knowledge and skills tests related to commercial vehicle operators with military experience as provided in 61-5-123.

(4) The department shall adopt rules governing the administration of a commercial driver's license skills test for a nonexempt applicant for a class A or class B commercial driver's license, for upgrading a commercial driver's license from class B to class A, and for obtaining a passenger or school bus endorsement and the administration of a knowledge test for a hazardous materials endorsement. The rules must provide:

(a) for the department conducting an electronic query to the entry-level driver training provider registry;

(b) that the department may not conduct a skills test or hazardous materials endorsement knowledge test when the entry-level driver training provider registry does not validate that the nonexempt applicant completed the requisite entry-level driver training; and

(c) that an examiner of school bus driver endorsement candidates has had a commercial driver's license issued in Montana in the last 10 years and preferably has at least 2 years of experience driving a school bus in Montana.

(5) The department shall adopt rules that provide that prior to issuing, renewing, transferring, or upgrading a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit, the department shall conduct a check of the applicant's eligibility by electronically querying the commercial drug and alcohol clearinghouse. The rules must provide that the department may not issue, renew, transfer, or upgrade a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit when the result from the clearinghouse indicates the driver is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle.

(6) The department shall adopt rules that provide that upon receiving federal motor carrier safety administration notification that the commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license holder is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle, the department shall initiate established procedures for downgrading the commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license. The rules must provide that downgrade must be completed and recorded on the commercial driver's license system driver record within 60 days of the notification. The rules must further provide that if, after the department completes and records the downgrade on the commercial driver's license system driver record, the department receives federal motor carrier safety administration notification that:

(a) a driver is no longer prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle, the department shall make the driver eligible for reinstatement of the commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license privilege to the driver's license; and

(b) the driver was erroneously identified as prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle, the department shall:

(i) reinstate the commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license privilege to the driver's license as expeditiously as possible; and

(ii) expunge from the commercial driver's license system driver record and motor vehicle record any reference related the driver's erroneous prohibited status. *(Subsection (1)(d) effective on occurrence of contingency—sec. 5, Ch. 646, L. 2023.)*

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 335, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 646, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 646, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023, except for subsection (1)(d), which is effective on occurrence of contingency.

The amendment to this section made by section 3, Ch. 744, L. 2023, was rendered void by section 6, Ch. 744, L. 2023, a coordination section.

Applicability: Section 6, Ch. 646, L. 2023, provided: "A holder of a commercial learner's permit that was issued prior to the adoption of administrative rules on or before January 1, 2024, pursuant to [section 2(3)] [61-5-110(3)] is exempt from the entry-level driver training records check requirements under [sections 2(3) and 3(4) through (6)] [61-5-110(3) and 61-14-202(4) through (6)] as long as the permit holder obtains a commercial driver's license prior to the expiration, renewal, or extension of the commercial learner's permit."

Contingent Effective Date: Section 5, Ch. 646, L. 2023, provided: "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Section 3(1)(d)] [61-14-202(1)(d)] is effective on the date that the Montana department of justice certifies to the code commissioner that the federal department of transportation has granted a waiver to the state under [section 3(1)(d)] [61-14-202(1)(d)]."

Part 3

Other Rulemaking Authority

61-14-301. Other rulemaking authority. (1) The department shall adopt rules to identify the entity or entities that may qualify for grants under 61-3-415 and to establish criteria that an entity must meet to receive grant funds.

(2) The department may adopt rules for the application, certification, and determination of the ability of a self-insurer to pay any judgment under 61-6-143.

(3) The department may adopt rules for individuals who are exempt from wearing seatbelts under 61-13-103.

(4) The department shall adopt rules governing sales, including sales of receipts by county treasurers and other authorized agents.

(5) The department may adopt rules governing the cancellation of received services upon receipt of an insufficient funds check in payment for a service.

(6) The department may adopt rules for the implementation of the Montana Driver Privacy Protection Act, including procedures for:

(a) verifying the identity of a person requesting personal information;

(b) maintaining records for release of personal information by the department or by any recipient under Title 61, chapter 11, part 5; and

(c) providing for oversight of sale or disclosure of personal information to third parties.

(7) The department may adopt rules for governing recordkeeping, including the destruction of records.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 335, L. 2019.

TITLES 62 THROUGH 66

RESERVED

TITLE 67

AERONAUTICS

Ch.
1. General Provisions.
2. Department of Transportation — Aeronautical Powers and Duties.
3. Regulation and Licensing.
4. Noise, Height, and Land Use Regulation. Repealed.
5. Airport Hazard Regulation. Repealed.
6. Airport Zoning Act. Repealed.
7. Airport Affected Areas.
Chapters 8 and 9 reserved.
10. Municipal Airports.
11. Airport Authorities.

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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Part 1

Definitions and Policy

67-1-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aeronautics" means transportation by aircraft; the operation, construction, repair, or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft power plants and accessories, including the repair, packing, and maintenance of parachutes; the design, establishment, construction, extension, operation, improvement, repair, or maintenance of airports, restricted landing areas, or other air navigation facilities; and air instruction.

(2) (a) "Aeronautics instructor" means an individual engaged in giving instruction or offering to give instruction in aeronautics, either in flying or ground subjects, or both, for hire or reward, without advertising that occupation, without calling the facilities an "air school" or anything equivalent to an "air school", and without employing or using other instructors.

(b) The term does not include an instructor in a public school or university of this state or an institution of higher learning accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work while engaged in duties as an instructor.

(3) "Air carrier" means a person or corporation owning, controlling, operating, or managing aircraft as a scheduled common carrier of passengers or freight for compensation within this state.

(4) "Aircraft" means a contrivance used or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.

(5) "Aircrew" includes:

(a) an individual who engages, as the person in command or as pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew, in the navigation of aircraft while under way;

(b) an individual who is directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling, or repair of aircraft engines, propellers, or appliances except for an individual employed outside the United States, an individual employed by a manufacturer of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, or appliances to perform duties as inspector or mechanic in connection with them, and an individual performing inspection or mechanical duties in connection with aircraft owned or operated by the individual; and

(c) an individual who serves in the capacity of aircraft dispatcher or air traffic control tower operator.

(6) "Air instruction" means the imparting of aeronautical information by an aeronautics instructor or in or by an air school or flying club.

(7) "Air navigation" means the operation or navigation of aircraft in the air space over this state or upon an airport or restricted landing area within this state.

(8) "Air navigation facility" means a facility used in, available for use in, or designed for use in aid of air navigation, including airports, restricted landing areas, and structures, mechanisms, lights, beacons, marks, communicating systems, or other instrumentalities or devices used or useful as an aid or constituting an advantage or convenience to the safe taking off, navigation, and landing of aircraft or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance of an airport or restricted area and any combination of these facilities.

(9) "Airport" means an area of land or water that is intended or designed for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, whether or not facilities are provided for the shelter, servicing, or repair of aircraft or for receiving or discharging passengers or cargo, and all appurtenant areas used or suitable for airport buildings or other airport facilities and all appurtenant rights-of-way.

(10) "Airport authority" or "authority" means a regional airport authority or municipal airport authority created under chapter 11 and the governing body of a municipality that has determined to exercise the powers of a municipal airport authority under 67-11-102.

(11) "Airport hazard" means a structure, object of natural growth, or use of land that obstructs the air space required for the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport or restricted landing area or is otherwise hazardous to landing or taking off.

(12) "Airport protection privileges" means easements through or other interests in air space over land or water, interests in airport hazards outside the boundaries of airports or restricted landing areas, and other protection privileges, the acquisition or control of which is necessary to ensure safe approaches to the landing areas of airports and restricted landing areas and the safe and efficient operation of airports or restricted landing areas.

(13) (a) "Air school" means a person engaged in giving or offering to give instruction in aeronautics, either in flying or ground subjects, or both, for or without hire or reward, and advertising or representing to the public that the person gives or offers to give that instruction.

(b) The term does not include a public school or university of this state or an institution of higher learning accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work.

(14) "Board" means the board of aeronautics provided for in 2-15-2506.

(15) "Bonds" means bonds, notes, interim certificates, debentures, or similar obligations issued by an authority under chapter 11.

(16) "Building or structure" means any edifice, structure, or construction of any kind, character, or description and any object of natural growth erected, constructed, grown, located or proposed to be erected, constructed, grown, or located within the airport affected area designated pursuant to 67-7-201, including any edifice, structure, or construction or object within the restricted zones erected, constructed, placed, or located on or over land or water, or both.

(17) "Civil aircraft" means an aircraft other than a public aircraft.

(18) "Commercial air operator" means any person owning, controlling, operating, or managing aircraft for any commercial purpose for compensation.

(19) "Department" means the department of transportation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 25.

(20) "Flying club" means a person other than an individual that, neither for profit nor reward, owns, leases, or uses one or more aircraft for the purpose of instruction or pleasure, or both.

(21) "Governing body" means, except as provided in 67-7-103, a city commission, town council, or county commission and the boards, departments, and divisions of those entities, by whatever name they are known, that have charge of finances and management of a municipality or a county.

(22) "Height of buildings and structures" means, for the purposes of Title 67, chapter 7, the vertical distance measured from the ground or surface level of the airport on the side adjacent to the building or structure to the level of the highest point of the building or structure.

(23) "Municipal airport authority" or "municipal authority" means a municipal airport authority created under 67-11-102.

(24) "Municipality" means a county, city, village, or town of this state and any other political subdivision, public corporation, authority, or district in this state authorized by law to acquire, establish, construct, maintain, improve, and operate airports and other air navigation facilities.

(25) "Navigable air space" means air space above the minimum altitudes of flight prescribed by the laws of this state or by regulations of the department.

(26) "NPIAS airport" means an airport that is included in the federal aviation administration's national plan of integrated airport systems.

(27) "Operation of aircraft" or "operate aircraft" means the use of aircraft for the purpose of air navigation and includes the navigation or piloting of aircraft. A person who causes or authorizes the operation of aircraft, whether with or without the right of legal control, in the capacity of owner, lessee, or otherwise, of the aircraft, operates the aircraft.

(28) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, private, municipal, or public corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or body politic and includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, or other similar representative.

(29) "Political subdivision" has the same meaning as municipality.

(30) "Public aircraft" means an aircraft used exclusively in the service of any government or of a political subdivision of a government, including the government of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, but not including a government-owned aircraft engaged in carrying persons or property for commercial purposes.

(31) "Real property" means lands, structures, buildings, and interests in land, including lands under water and riparian rights, and all things and rights usually included within the term real property, including not only fee simple absolute but also all lesser interests, such as easements, rights-of-way, uses, leases, licenses, and all other incorporeal hereditaments and every estate, interest, or right, legal or equitable, pertaining to real property.

(32) "Regional airport authority" or "regional authority" means a regional airport authority created under 67-11-103.

(33) "Restricted landing area" means an area of land or water, or both, that is used or is made available for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, the use of which must, except in case of emergency, be only as provided by the department.

(34) "State airway" means a route in the navigable air space over and above the lands or waters of this state, designated by the department as a route suitable for air navigation.

(35) "Structure" means any object constructed or installed by a person, including but not limited to buildings, towers, smokestacks, and overhead transmission lines.

(36) "Tree" means any object of natural growth.

(37) "YDNL" means the 365-day average, in decibels, day-night average sound level as provided in 14 CFR 150.7.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 3, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 1975; Sec. 1-102, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-311, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 26, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-322.1, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6, Ch. 12, L. 1939; Sec. 1-706, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-710, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1971;

amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-901, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-102, 1-311, 1-322.1(2), (3), 1-706(a) thru (d), 1-710(2) thru (4), 1-901(2) thru (7); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Exemption from motor carrier laws, 69-12-102.

67-1-102. Policy. It is hereby declared that the purpose of this title is to further the public interest and aeronautical progress by:

(1) providing for the protection and promotion of safety in aeronautics;

(2) cooperating in effecting a uniformity of the laws relating to the development and regulation of aeronautics in the several states;

(3) revising existing statutes relative to the development and regulation of aeronautics so as to grant to a state agency such powers and impose upon it such duties that the state may properly perform its functions relative to aeronautics and effectively exercise its jurisdiction over persons and property within such jurisdiction, may assist in the promotion of a statewide system of airports, may cooperate with and assist the political subdivisions of this state and others engaged in aeronautics, and may encourage and develop aeronautics;

(4) establishing uniform regulations, consistent with federal regulations and those of other states, in order that those engaged in aeronautics of every character may so engage with the least possible restriction, consistent with the safety and the rights of others; and

(5) providing for cooperation with the federal authorities in the development of a national system of civil aviation and for coordination of the aeronautical activities of those authorities and the authorities of this state by assisting in accomplishing the purposes of federal legislation and eliminating costly and unnecessary duplication of functions.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 152, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 1-103.

Cross-References

Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.

67-1-103. Board of aeronautics. (1) The board shall act in an advisory capacity to the department in matters pertaining to aeronautics.

(2) Regular meetings shall be held at the board's offices at Helena, but whenever the convenience of the public or of the parties may be promoted or delay or expense may be prevented, it may hold hearings or proceedings at any other place designated by it.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-323, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-203, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-203, 1-323(2).

Cross-References

Board of Aeronautics — qualification — allocation — quasi-judicial, 2-15-2506.

67-1-104. Governmental nature of aeronautical functions. The acquisition of lands for establishing airports or other air navigation facilities; the acquisition of airport protection privileges; the acquisition, establishment, construction, enlargement, improvement, maintenance, equipment, and operation of airports and other air navigation facilities, whether by the state separately or jointly with a municipality; the assistance of this state in that acquisition, establishment, construction, enlargement, improvement, maintenance, equipment, and operation; and the exercise of any other powers granted to the department are public and governmental functions exercised for a public purpose and as a matter of public necessity; and such lands and other property and privileges acquired and used by the state in the manner and for the purposes enumerated in this title are acquired and used for public and governmental purposes and as a matter of public necessity.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-502.

67-1-105. Penalties. Unless otherwise provided, any person violating any of the provisions of chapters 1 through 3, except 67-3-212, or any of the rules or orders issued pursuant thereto is guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 90 days, or both.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 152, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 1-503; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

Part 2
Uniform Principles

67-1-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform State Law for Aeronautics".

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 1-606.

67-1-202. State sovereignty in space. Sovereignty in the space above the lands and waters of this state is declared to rest in the state, except where assumed by the United States law.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 1-601.

67-1-203. Spatial ownership. The ownership of the space above the lands and waters of this state is declared to be vested in the several owners of the surface beneath, subject to the right of flight described in 67-1-204.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 1-602.

Cross-References

Surface owner's rights, 70-16-101.

67-1-204. Lawfulness of flight and landings. (1) Flight in aircraft over the lands and waters of this state is lawful, unless it is at such a low altitude as to interfere with the then-existing use to which the land or water or the space over the land or water is put by the owner or unless conducted as to be imminently dangerous to persons or property lawfully on the land or water or in violation of the air commerce regulations that have been or may be promulgated by the department of transportation of the United States.

(2) Aircraft landings and takeoffs from the public waters of this state are lawful if proper safety precautions regarding public waters, as prescribed in 14 CFR, part 91, are taken prior to the landing or takeoff, except as otherwise provided by this section.

(3) Aircraft landings and takeoffs from public roads in this state are lawful if proper safety precautions, as approved by the governing jurisdiction of the roads, are taken prior to the landing or takeoff, except as otherwise provided in this section. However, the local governing jurisdiction may not incur liability as a result of an approval under this subsection.

(4) A person may not operate an aircraft, as pilot of the aircraft, either in the air, on the water, or on the ground, in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of others, including the aircraft being operated and passengers carried in the aircraft.

(5) The willful and malicious use of aircraft in stunting or diving over livestock in a manner calculated to frighten or stampede them is an unlawful use of aircraft, and actual and punitive damages, in addition to the penalties provided by this part, may be recovered in an action for damages caused by the willful and malicious use of the aircraft. As used in this subsection, "livestock" includes ostriches, rheas, and emus.

(6) The landing of an aircraft on the private lands or waters of another without consent is unlawful, except in the case of a forced landing. For damages caused by a forced landing, however, the owner or lessee of the aircraft or the pilot is liable for actual damage caused by the forced landing.

(7) A person may not knowingly operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. "Under the influence" means that as a result of taking into the body alcohol, drugs, or any combination of alcohol and drugs, a person's ability to safely operate the aircraft has been diminished to the slightest degree.

(8) A person having information regarding a violation of subsection (7) shall report the information to the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 1-603; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 206, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Forfeiture of aircraft used in drug violations, 44-12-102.
Unauthorized use of airplane, 45-6-308.
Tampering with aircraft unlawful, 45-8-113.
Operation of aircraft by intoxicated persons, 53-24-106.
Harrassment of livestock unlawful, 81-7-506.
Harrassment of wildlife unlawful, 87-3-126.
Restrictions on use of aircraft or boats, 87-3-126.

67-1-205. Penalties. A person who violates any provision of this part, except 67-1-204(8), shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 1-604; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 542, L. 1987.

67-1-206. Interpretation. This part shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it and to harmonize, as far as possible, with federal laws and regulations on the subject of aeronautics.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 17, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2736.9, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 1-605.

67-1-207 through 67-1-210 reserved.

67-1-211. Alcohol concentration standards — evidence admissible — administration of tests. (1) If a person acting or attempting to act as a crewmember of an aircraft has an alcohol concentration, as defined in 61-8-1001, of 0.04% by weight or more, it may be inferred that the person is under the influence of alcohol and is in violation of 67-1-204.

(2) Evidence of any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the person at the time of the act alleged under subsection (1) and any other competent evidence bearing on the question of whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two at the time of the act alleged is admissible in any criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed in violation of 67-1-204.

(3) In any criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed in violation of 67-1-204, the court or jury may consider federal regulations governing aeronautics.

(4) A person who operates an aircraft over the lands and waters of this state is considered to have given consent to a test of the person's blood, breath, oral fluid, or urine for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol or drugs in the person's body if arrested by a peace officer for operating, attempting to operate, or being in actual physical control of an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two. The test must be administered at the direction of a peace officer who has reasonable grounds to believe the person was operating, attempting to operate, or in actual physical control of an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two. The arresting officer may designate which of the tests must be administered. A person who is unconscious or who is otherwise in a condition rendering the person incapable of refusal is considered not to have withdrawn the consent provided by this subsection.

(5) If a person charged with a violation of 67-1-204 refuses to submit to a test of the person's blood, breath, oral fluid, or urine for the purpose of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in the person's body, a test will not be given, but proof of refusal is admissible in any criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed in violation of 67-1-204.

(6) The provisions relating to administration of tests provided in 61-8-1019 and the definition of alcohol concentration provided in 61-8-1001 apply to any testing done to determine any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol in a person and the alcohol concentration of a person charged with violation of 67-1-204.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 789, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1974, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 498, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 151, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 151, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 19, 2023.

67-1-212 and 67-1-213 reserved.

67-1-214. Standards for meteorological evaluation towers — report — notification — penalty. (1) The requirements of subsection (2) apply to a meteorological evaluation tower:

(a) that is 50 feet or more in height;

(b) that is located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town;

(c) that is on land that is primarily rural or undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes; and

(d) the appearance of which is not otherwise governed by state or federal law, rule, or regulation.

(2) A meteorological evaluation tower that meets the description provided in subsection (1) must:

(a) be painted in seven equal-width and alternating bands of aviation orange and white beginning with orange at the top of the tower and ending with orange at the base;

(b) have two marker balls attached to and evenly spaced on each of the tower's outside guy wires; and

(c) have a yellow safety sleeve on each guy wire that extends 7 feet up from the anchor point of the guy wire.

(3) Not less than 10 working days prior to erecting a meteorological evaluation tower subject to this section, the owner of the tower shall provide a report to the department that identifies the owner and specifies the tower's location, height, and other information that the department finds necessary for aviation safety.

(4) The owner of a meteorological evaluation tower subject to this section who is removing the tower shall report its removal to the department within 10 working days of its removal.

(5) A person who violates subsection (3) or (4) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(6) Within 5 working days of receiving information pursuant to subsection (3) or (4), the department shall make the information, excluding the ownership of the tower, available to the public.

(7) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Height" means the distance from the original grade at the base of the tower to the highest point of the tower.

(b) "Meteorological evaluation tower" means a structure erected and standing for any period of time whatsoever, whether self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors and including all guy wires and accessory facilities, on which a meteorological instrument is mounted for the purpose of documenting whether a site has sufficient wind resources for the operation of a wind turbine generator.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 2013.**

Part 3
Finance

67-1-301. Money — receipt and disbursement. (1) All costs and expenses of administering this title, including the salaries of employees of the department engaged in functions pertaining to aeronautics, the expenses of members of the board, and all other disbursements necessary to carry out the purposes of this title, must be paid out of the following revenue:

(a) all gifts and all legislative appropriations to the department for aeronautics; and

(b) all money received from any branch or department of the federal government or from other sources for the purposes of this title or for the furtherance of aeronautics generally in this state.

(2) All money collected under subsection (1) must be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the department.

(3) The following amounts must be deposited from the proceeds of the tax imposed on aviation fuel by 15-70-403(1)(c):

(a) in the aeronautics operations account provided for in 67-1-308, an amount equal to the proceeds of 0.5 cents a gallon collected under 15-70-403(1)(c) for the sole purpose of carrying out department functions pertaining to aeronautics;

(b) in the airport grant account provided for in 67-1-309, an amount equal to the proceeds of 4.5 cents a gallon.

(4) Proceeds of all repayments of loans, including interest, made under 67-1-307 must be deposited in the account provided for in 67-1-306.

(5) The gasoline tax imposed by the laws of this state on aviation fuel purchased and used for the operation of airplanes or aircraft may not be refunded.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 220, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 676, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1987; amd. Secs. 10, 12, Ch. 642, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 585, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 8, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 404, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 220, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Gasoline and special fuel tax — rate, 15-70-403.
Refund or credit authorized, 15-70-425.
State fund structure, 17-2-102.
Distribution and use of proceeds of gasoline tax, 60-3-201.
Airline property tax — state airports, 67-1-303.
Aeronautics operations account, 67-1-308.

67-1-302. Industrial revenue projects. The board of aeronautics may exercise the power and authority of a municipality under Title 90, chapter 5, part 1, with respect to projects suitable for use by commercial enterprises providing scheduled air transportation services primarily within the state if such projects are located within or based and used primarily within the state. For purposes of this section, the board of aeronautics shall be considered a municipality and a governing body thereof under Title 90, chapter 5, part 1, and shall give notice of the public hearing required by 90-5-104 in three newspapers published and circulating generally in the state and shall not issue any bonds unless it appears, after the public hearing, that the acquisition or improvements of the project is in the public interest of the state. For purposes of this section, projects suitable for commercial enterprises providing scheduled air transportation services shall include but are not limited to aircraft parts, aircraft, hangars, storage and aircraft maintenance facilities, fuel facilities, and other personal or real property suitable for use by a scheduled air transportation enterprise.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 656, L. 1979.

67-1-303. Airline property tax — state airports. (1) Within 30 days of receipt, the county treasurer shall transmit to the department of revenue 90% of the property tax collected on property of airline companies by reason of a state airport being located in the county.

(2) The department of revenue shall place the money in the aeronautics operations account provided for in 67-1-308 for the purposes provided for in 67-1-301(3)(a).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 238, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 642, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 404, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 455, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Statement of assessed value of airline property transmitted to counties, 15-23-106.

67-1-304. Airport grants and loans. Any airport grant or loan that the department may be authorized to issue may be issued only after review and approval of the grant or loan request by the board.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 685, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Function of Board of Aeronautics, 67-1-103.

67-1-305. Terminated. Sec. 17, Ch. 642, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 642, L. 1993.

67-1-306. Special aeronautical loan account. There is a special aeronautical loan account in the state special revenue fund. Principal and interest payments deposited in the account may be used only for providing loans specified in 67-1-307.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 642, L. 1993.

67-1-307. Aeronautical loans. Money deposited in the account created in 67-1-306 may, with the approval of the board, be used only to provide loans to local governments and state agencies for aeronautical purposes, including airport improvement. The board shall establish procedures, including the interest rate charged, for providing loans. Proceeds of all repayments of loans, including interest, made under this section must be deposited in the account created in 67-1-306.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 642, L. 1993.

67-1-308. Aeronautics operations account. (1) There is an aeronautics operations account in the state special revenue fund. Revenue from the aviation fuel tax must be deposited in the account to the credit of the department pursuant to 67-1-301(3)(a).

(2) Money in the account must be used for the purpose of administering department functions pertaining to aeronautical powers and duties as provided in 67-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Gasoline and special fuel tax — incidence — rates, 15-70-403.
Distribution and use of proceeds of gasoline tax, 60-3-201.

67-1-309. Airport grant account. (1) There is an airport grant account in the state special revenue fund. Revenue from the aviation fuel tax must be deposited in the account to the credit of the department pursuant to 67-1-301(3)(b).

(2) Money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, and with the approval of the board may be used to provide grants to local governments for airport development or improvement programs and to provide navigational aids, safety improvements, weather reporting services, and other aeronautical services for airports and landing fields and for the state's airways.

(3) The board shall establish procedures for the awarding of grants. The grant procedures must include a provision allowing a grant for the entire local match required for a project funded with federal funds.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 2
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AERONAUTICAL POWERS AND DUTIES

Part 1 — General Powers

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67-2-105. Air search and rescue volunteers — expenses — workers' compensation coverage.

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67-2-301. State airports — acquisition.
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67-2-501. Enforcement.
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Part 1
General Powers

67-2-101. Aeronautical powers and duties of department. (1) The department shall supervise aeronautics within this state. It shall encourage, foster, and assist in the development of aeronautics and encourage the establishment of airports and other air navigation facilities.

(2) The department shall cooperate with and assist the federal government, the political subdivisions of this state, and others engaged in aeronautics or the promotion of aeronautics and shall coordinate the aeronautical activities of these bodies.

(3) The department may designate, design, and establish, expand, or modify a state airways system which will best serve the interests of the state. It may chart that airways system and arrange for publication and distribution of maps, charts, notices, and bulletins relating to the airways which may be required in the public interest. The system shall be supplementary to and coordinated in design and operation with the federal airways system. It may include all types of air navigation facilities, but the facilities must conform to federal safety standards.

(4) The department may draft and recommend necessary legislation to advance the interests of the state in aeronautics and represent the state in aeronautical matters before federal agencies and other state agencies.

(5) The department may participate as party plaintiff or defendant or as intervenor on behalf of the state or a municipality or citizen in a controversy involving any claimed encroachment by the federal government or any foreign state upon state or individual rights pertaining to aeronautics.

(6) The department may use the facilities and services of other agencies of the state when reasonably available.

(7) The department may enter into any contracts necessary to the execution of the powers granted the department by this title.

(8) The department shall grant no exclusive right for the use of an airway, airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility under its jurisdiction. This subsection does not prevent the making of leases in accordance with other provisions of this title.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.

Cross-References

Garbage originating on or removed from airplanes not to be treated or fed to swine or other animals, 81-2-510.

67-2-102. Rules, orders, and standards. (1) The department may perform acts; issue and amend orders; adopt reasonable, general, or special rules; and establish minimum standards, consistent with this title, as it considers necessary to:

(a) carry out this title;

(b) perform its duties for the purpose of protecting and ensuring the general public interest and safety, the safety of persons receiving instruction concerning (or operating, using, or traveling in) aircraft, and of persons and property on land or water; and

(c) develop and promote aeronautics in this state.

(2) All rules prescribed by the department under this title shall be kept in conformity, as nearly as may be, with the then-current federal legislation governing aeronautics and the rules and standards adopted or issued under federal legislation.

History: En. 1-204.2 by Sec. 6, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.2.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

67-2-103 and 67-2-104 reserved.

67-2-105. Air search and rescue volunteers — expenses — workers' compensation coverage. (1) The department may temporarily employ an aircrew member or other person who volunteers to aid in the aerial search for a missing aircraft being conducted by the department.

(2) The department and volunteer stand in the relationship of employer and employee for purposes of and as those terms are defined in Title 39, chapter 71. The department must have each volunteer covered by the Workers' Compensation Act in Title 39, chapter 71, during the course of the volunteer's assistance.

(3) Volunteers are not salaried employees and are not entitled to wages and benefits. The department may in its discretion reimburse volunteers for their otherwise uncompensated out-of-pocket expenses, including but not limited to their expenditures for fuel, oil, food, and lodging.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Air rescue volunteer as employee for workers' compensation coverage, 39-71-118, 39-71-401.

Part 2
State Aircraft
(Repealed)

67-2-201. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1981; Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 1-1101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-1101.

67-2-202. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1981; Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 1-1102 by Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-1102.

67-2-203. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1981; Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 1-1103 by Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-1103.

67-2-204. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1981; Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 1-1104 by Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-1104.

67-2-205. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1981; Sec. 22, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

History: En. 1-1105 by Sec. 5, Ch. 378, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-1105(part).

Part 3
State Airports

67-2-301. State airports — acquisition. (1) The department may, on behalf of and in the name of this state:

(a) acquire real or personal property by purchase, gift, devise, lease, condemnation proceedings pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise for the purpose of establishing and constructing airports, restricted landing areas, and other air navigation facilities;

(b) acquire in like manner, own, control, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, and police airports, restricted landing areas, and other air navigation facilities either within or outside of this state;

(c) prior to acquisition, make investigations, surveys, and plans;

(d) erect, install, construct, and maintain facilities at those airports for the servicing of aircraft and for the comfort and accommodation of air travelers; and

(e) dispose of any property, airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility by sale, lease, or otherwise in accordance with the laws of this state governing the disposition of other similar property of the state.

(2) The department may not acquire or take over an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility owned or controlled by a municipality of this state without the consent of the municipality. The department may erect, equip, operate, and maintain at an airport all buildings and equipment necessary and proper to establish, maintain, and conduct the airport and air navigation facilities connected with the airport.

(3) When necessary, in order to provide unobstructed air space for the landing and taking off of aircraft utilizing airports and restricted landing areas acquired or operated under the provisions of this title, the department may acquire, in the manner provided for the acquisition of property for airport purposes, easements through or other interests in air space over land or water, interests in airport hazards outside the boundaries of the airports or restricted landing areas, and other airport protection privileges that are necessary to ensure safe approaches to the landing areas of airports and restricted landing areas and the safe and efficient operation of them. The department may also acquire in the same manner the right or easement, for a term of years or perpetually, to place or maintain suitable marks for the daytime marking and suitable lights for the nighttime marking of airport hazards, including the right of ingress and egress to or from the airport hazards for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the lights and marks. This authority does not limit the right, power, or authority of the state or a municipality to zone property adjacent to an airport or restricted landing area pursuant to a law of this state.

(4) The department may engage in the activities listed in subsections (1) through (3) jointly with the United States, with other states, and with municipalities or other agencies of this state.

(5) For the purpose of acquiring any property that it is authorized to acquire, the department may exercise the right of eminent domain, in the name of the state, in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30. The acquisition of property for any of the purposes listed in this section is a public use.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-401(1) thru (5); amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Airport police officers — employment and education standards, 7-32-303.
Passenger terminals — fire protection and safety regulations, Title 50, ch. 61, part 1.
Acquisition of airports by counties, cities, and towns, 67-10-102.
Airport easement acquisition, 67-10-201.
Joint airport board, 67-10-205.
Airport property — acquisition by eminent domain, 67-10-221.
Purchase of easements, 67-11-201.

67-2-302. State airports — operation. (1) The department may:

(a) lease, for a term not exceeding 40 years, airports or other air navigation facilities or real property acquired or set apart for airport purposes to private parties, a municipal or state government or the national government, or a department of either for operation;

(b) lease or assign, for a term not exceeding 40 years, space, area, improvements, or equipment on those airports to private parties, a municipal or state government or the national government, or a department of either for operation or use consistent with the purposes of this title;

(c) sell any part of those airports, other air navigation facilities, or real property to a municipal or state government or to the United States or a department or instrumentality of the United States for purposes incidental to or for aeronautical purposes; and

(d) confer the privilege of concessions for supplying goods, commodities, things, services, and facilities upon the premises of those airports. However, in conferring the concessions, the public may not be deprived of its rightful, equal, and uniform use of the subject of the concessions.

(2) The department may determine the charges or rental for the use of state airports, the charges for service or accommodations under its control, and the terms and conditions under which the property may be used. However, the public may not be deprived of its rightful, equal, and uniform use of the property. Charges must be reasonable and uniform for the same class of service and established with due regard to the property and improvements used and the expenses of operation to the state.

(3) The state has, and the department may enforce, agisters' liens as provided by law for repair, improvement, storage, or care of any personal property.

(4) The department may employ persons or contract with persons or firms to provide law enforcement in and around state airports whenever required by federal aviation regulations.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-401(6), (7); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Airport all-beverages license, 16-4-208.
Airport all-beverages license fee, 16-4-501.
Joint airport board, 67-10-205.

Part 4
Intergovernmental Cooperation

67-2-401. Cooperation — federal government. (1) The department may confer with or hold joint hearings with any federal aeronautical agency in connection with any matter arising under this title or relating to the sound development of aeronautics and may avail itself of the cooperation, services, records, and facilities of federal agencies, as fully as practicable, in the administration and enforcement of this title. It shall reciprocate by furnishing to the federal agencies its cooperation, services, records, and facilities to the extent practicable.

(2) It shall report to the appropriate federal agency all accidents in aeronautics in this state of which it is informed and preserve, protect, and prevent the removal of the component parts of any aircraft involved in an accident being investigated by it until a federal agency begins an investigation. It shall report to the appropriate federal agency all refusals by it to register federal licenses, certificates, or permits; all revocations of certificates of registration; the reasons for its action; and all penalties of which it has knowledge imposed upon aircrews for violations of the laws of this state relating to aeronautics or for violations of the rules or orders of the department.

History: En. 1-204.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.1; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-2-402. Cooperation — municipalities. (1) The department may offer its engineering or other technical services, without charge, to a municipality desiring them in connection with the construction, maintenance, or operation or proposed construction, maintenance, or operation of an airport or restricted landing area.

(2) The department may render assistance in the acquisition, development, operation, or maintenance of airports owned, controlled, or operated by municipalities in this state out of appropriations made by the legislature for that purpose.

(3) Municipalities may cooperate with the department in the development of aeronautics and aeronautic facilities in this state.

History: En. 1-204.3 by Sec. 7, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.3.

67-2-403. Federal aid. (1) The department may cooperate with the government of the United States and any agency or department of the United States in the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of airports and other air navigation facilities in this state and may comply with the laws of the United States and any regulations made under those laws for the expenditure of federal money upon airports and other navigation facilities.

(2) The department may accept, receive, and receipt for federal money and other money, either public or private, for and in behalf of this state or a municipality of this state, for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of airports and other air navigation facilities, whether the work is to be done by the state or by the municipalities or jointly, aided by grants of aid from the United States upon terms and conditions prescribed by the laws of the United States and any rules made under them. The department may act as agent of a municipality of this state upon the request of the municipality in accepting, receiving, and receipting for money in its behalf for airports or other air navigation facility purposes and in contracting for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, or operation of airports or other air navigation facilities financed either in whole or in part by federal money. The governing body of a municipality may designate the department as its agent for those purposes and enter into an agreement with it prescribing the terms and conditions of the agency in accordance with federal laws and rules. Money paid by the United States government must be retained by the state or paid to the municipalities under terms and conditions imposed by the United States government in making the grants.

(3) All contracts for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of airports or other air navigation facilities made by the department, either as the agent of this state or as the agent of a municipality, must be made under the laws of this state governing the making of similar contracts by the state or by municipalities. However, when the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of an airport, landing strip, or other air navigation facility is financed wholly or partially with federal money, the department, as agent of the state or of a municipality of the state, may let contracts in the manner prescribed by the federal authorities, acting under the laws of the United States and any rules made under them.

(4) All money accepted for disbursement by the department under subsection (2) must be deposited in the state treasury and, unless otherwise prescribed by the authority from which the money is received, kept in separate funds, designated according to the purposes for which the money was made available, and held by the state in trust for those purposes. All money appropriated for the purposes for which it was made available must be spent in accordance with federal laws and regulations and with this title. The department may, whether acting for this state or as the agent of any of its municipalities or when requested by the United States government or an agency or department of the United States, disburse the money appropriated for the designated purposes, but this does not preclude any other authorized method of disbursement.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-205; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 10, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Federal revenue and endowments, Title 17, ch. 3.

Federal and state money, 67-10-405.

Part 5
Enforcement

67-2-501. Enforcement. The department and every state, county, and municipal officer charged with the enforcement of state or municipal laws shall enforce and assist in the enforcement of this title and of all rules adopted under it and of all other laws of this state relating to aeronautics. In the aid of that enforcement, the department possesses general police powers. The department may also, in the name of the state, enforce this title and the rules adopted under it by injunction in the courts of this state.

History: En. 1-204.4 by Sec. 8, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.4(1).

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

67-2-502. Investigations and hearings. The department may hold investigations, inquiries, and hearings concerning matters covered by this title, by its orders and rules, and concerning accidents in aeronautics within this state. An officer or employee of the department designated to hold an investigation or hearing may administer oaths and affirmations; certify official acts; issue subpoenas; and compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, books, and documents. In case of failure to comply with a subpoena or order issued under this title, the department may invoke the aid of a state court of general jurisdiction. The court may then order the witness to comply with the requirements of the subpoena or order or to give evidence pertaining to the matter in question. A failure to obey the order of the court may be punished as a contempt.

History: En. 1-204.4 by Sec. 8, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.4(2).

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

67-2-503. Use of reports. The reports of investigations or hearings may not be admitted in evidence or used for any purpose in any suit, action, or proceedings growing out of a matter referred to in the investigation, hearing, or report, except in case of criminal or other proceedings instituted in behalf of the department or this state under this title and other laws of this state relating to aeronautics. An officer or employee of the department may not be required to testify to any facts ascertained in or information gained by reason of the officer's or employee's official capacity or be required to testify as an expert witness in a suit, action, or proceeding involving an aircraft. The department may, in its discretion, make available to appropriate federal and state agencies information and material developed in the course of its hearings and investigations.

History: En. 1-204.4 by Sec. 8, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-204.4(3); amd. Sec. 1975, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3
REGULATION AND LICENSING

Part 1 — General Provisions

67-3-101. Regulation and licensing — general provisions.
67-3-102. Exceptions.
67-3-103. Licenses and certificates — exhibition.
67-3-104. Department orders.
67-3-105. Inspection powers.

Part 2 — Aircraft, Aircrews, and Instructors

67-3-201. Aircraft registration and licensing required.
67-3-202. Penalty for registration violations.
67-3-203. Registration application — payment of fees — deposit of fees.
67-3-204. Fee in lieu of tax on registered aircraft — decal.
67-3-205. Aircraft registration account — source of funds — allocation.
67-3-206. Schedule of fees in lieu of tax for aircraft.
67-3-207 through 67-3-210 reserved.
67-3-211. Aircrew licensing.
67-3-212. Flight plan required.
67-3-213 through 67-3-220 reserved.
67-3-221. Repealed.

Part 3 — Airport Licensing (Repealed)

Part 4 — Air Operators and Air Carriers (Repealed)

Chapter Cross-References

Discrimination in license issuance prohibited, 49-3-204.

Part 1
General Provisions

67-3-101. Regulation and licensing — general provisions. In order to promote the general public interest and safety and to carry out the purposes of this title, the department may:

(1) require the annual registration of federal licenses, permits, or certificates of civil aircraft engaged in air navigation within this state, of aircrews engaged in aeronautics within this state, and of aeronautics instructors giving instruction in flying subjects and may issue certificates of registration. The certificates of registration constitute licenses of the aircraft, aircrews, and instructors for operations within this state to the extent permitted by the federal licenses, certificates, or permits so registered. The department may charge a fee for the registration of each federal license, certificate, or permit not exceeding $10. It may accept as evidence of the holding of a federal license, certificate, or permit the verified application of the owner of the aircraft, a member of the aircrew, or the instructor. The application shall contain information which the department may by rule or order prescribe.

(2) register aircraft repair shops, aircraft, aircraft parts and sales dealers, and other persons operating in aviation and license aircraft repair shops, aircraft, aircraft parts and sales dealers, and other persons operating in aviation, air schools, and aeronautics instructors giving instruction in ground subjects, in accordance with rules to be adopted by the department, and may annually renew these licenses. It may charge for the original licensing of aircraft repair shops, aircraft, aircraft parts and sales dealers, and other persons operating in aviation, air schools, and aeronautics instructors not more than $10 and for the renewal of a license not more than $10.

(3) upon notification by the federal aviation administration that it has revoked the license or certificate of an aircraft, aircrew member, air school, or aeronautics instructor, temporarily or permanently revoke the license or certificate of registration issued for that aircraft, aircrew member, air school, or aeronautics instructor, giving reasons for the action.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-301(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 398, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Seizure and forfeiture of airplane used for unlawful transportation of cigarettes, 16-11-147.
Aircraft sales personnel overtime compensation exclusions, 39-3-406.
Forfeiture of aircraft used in drug violations, 44-12-102.
Unauthorized use of airplane, 45-6-308.
Tampering with aircraft unlawful, 45-8-113.
Nondiscrimination in licensing, 49-3-204.
Transportation of property by motor carrier in continuous movement with air carrier — exemption from motor carrier laws, 69-12-102.
Airplane garbage disposal methods in relation to livestock, 81-2-510.
Harrassment of livestock unlawful, 81-7-506.
Harrassment of wildlife unlawful, 87-3-126.

67-3-102. Exceptions. The provisions of 67-3-101(2) and (3) do not apply to:

(1) an aircraft that has been licensed by a foreign country with which the United States has a reciprocal agreement covering the operations of that licensed aircraft;

(2) an aircraft that is owned by a nonresident of this state who is lawfully entitled to operate the aircraft in the state of residence;

(3) an aircraft engaged principally in commercial flying constituting an act of interstate or foreign commerce;

(4) an aircrew operating military or public aircraft or an aircraft licensed by a foreign country with which the United States has a reciprocal agreement covering the operation of that licensed aircraft;

(5) a person operating model aircraft or a person piloting an aircraft that is equipped with fully functioning dual controls when a licensed instructor is in full charge of one set of the controls and the flight is solely for instruction or for the demonstration of the aircraft to a prospective purchaser;

(6) a nonresident operating aircraft in this state who is lawfully entitled to operate aircraft in the state of residence;

(7) an aircrew while operating or taking part in the operation of an aircraft engaged principally in commercial flying constituting an act of interstate or foreign commerce.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-301(3); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1976, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

67-3-103. Licenses and certificates — exhibition. (1) The federal license, certificate, or permit and the evidence of registration in this or another state, if any, required for an aircrew member shall be kept in the personal possession of the aircrew member when operating within this state and must be presented for inspection upon the demand of a passenger, a peace officer of this state, an authorized official or employee of the department, or an official, manager, or person in charge of an airport in this state upon which the aircrew member lands or upon the reasonable request of any other person.

(2) The federal aircraft license, certificate, or permit and the evidence of registration in this or another state, if any, required for aircraft must be carried in every aircraft operating in this state at all times and must be conspicuously posted in the aircraft where they may readily be seen by passengers or inspectors and must be presented for inspection upon demand of a passenger, a peace officer of this state, an authorized official or employee of the department, or an official, manager, or person in charge of an airport in this state upon which it lands or upon the reasonable request of any person.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-302; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-3-104. Department orders. (1) The department shall set forth its reasons for its action and shall state the requirements to be met before approval will be given, registration permitted, license granted, or order modified or changed before it:

(a) refuses to permit the registration of a license, certificate, or permit;

(b) refuses to grant a license to an air school or to an aeronautics instructor in ground subjects; or

(c) issues an order requiring certain things to be done or revoking a license or certificate.

(2) An order made by the department under this title shall be served upon the interested persons by registered or certified mail or in person.

(3) (a) A person aggrieved by an order of the department or by the granting or denial of a license, certificate, or registration may, within 10 days after receiving notice of the department's order or action, appeal from the order or action to the district court of the county in which the person resides or the county in which any property affected by the order or action is located.

(b) The appellant shall file with the clerk of the district court to which the appeal is taken a notice of appeal which shall state the substance of the order or action appealed from, the date of the order or action, and that the person appeals to the court from it.

(c) The appellant shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal upon the department. The order of filing and service is immaterial.

(d) The appeal shall be heard not less than 10 days or more than 30 days after the filing of the notice of appeal unless the judge, for sufficient cause resulting from press of business or other reason, is unable to hear the appeal within that time. In that event, the hearing may be deferred until it can be heard by the court. The appeal may be heard without formal pleadings.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-310(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

67-3-105. Inspection powers. A person charged with the duty of enforcing this title may inspect and examine at reasonable hours any premises, buildings, or other structures where airports, restricted landing areas, air schools, flying clubs, or other air navigation facilities or aeronautical activities are operated or carried on.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-310(part).

Part 2
Aircraft, Aircrews, and Instructors

67-3-201. Aircraft registration and licensing required. (1) Except as provided in 67-3-102 and in subsection (6) of this section, a person may not operate or cause or authorize to be operated a civil aircraft within this state unless the aircraft has an appropriate effective registration, license, certificate, or permit issued or approved by the United States government that has been registered with the department and the registration with the department is in force.

(2) Aircraft customarily kept in this state must be registered on or before March 1 of each year with the department, which shall charge a fee for registration according to the fee schedule in 67-3-206. The registration must be renewed annually on or before March 1 of each year.

(3) Section 67-3-202 and subsections (2) and (4) through (6) of this section do not apply to:

(a) aircraft owned and operated by the federal government, the state, or any political subdivision of the state;

(b) aircraft owned and held by an aircraft dealer solely for the purpose of resale;

(c) aircraft operated by an airline company and regularly scheduled for the primary purpose of carrying persons or property for hire in interstate or international transportation; or

(d) dismantled or otherwise nonflyable aircraft.

(4) An aircraft must be registered in a particular county of the state. This county must be the county of the owner's principal residence if the owner is a natural person or the owner's principal place of doing business in the state if the owner is not a natural person. However, if the owner declares by affidavit that the aircraft is customarily kept at a landing facility in another county within the state, the owner may register the aircraft as property within the other county.

(5) Aircraft not registered in the state but entering the state to engage in commercial operations must be registered prior to commencing operation.

(6) Owners of ultralight aircraft for which no appropriate effective license, certificate, or permit is issued by the United States government shall pay the fee required in 67-3-206 and file with the department an appropriate registration recognized and approved by the United States government.

History: (1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 348, L. 1974; Sec. 1-301, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (6)En. 1-325 by Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 1977; Sec. 1-325, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-301(part), 1-325; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 229, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 220, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 126, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 453, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1977, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Applicability — special property tax, 15-24-303, 15-24-304.

67-3-202. Penalty for registration violations. (1) When an aircraft required to be registered under the provisions of subsections (2) and (4) through (6) of 67-3-201 is not registered on or before March 1 of the current calendar year, a penalty of five times the annual registration fee provided in 67-3-206 must be added to the registration fee and collected. Registration of an aircraft in the name of the applicant for the year immediately preceding the year for which application for registration is made shall be prima facie evidence that the aircraft has been based in this state during the year for which application for registration is made.

(2) A person who owns or causes or authorizes an aircraft to be operated or who operates an aircraft required to be registered in the state without having displayed upon such aircraft a certificate of registration issued by the department for that aircraft commits a misdemeanor.

History: En. 1-326 by Sec. 2, Ch. 542, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 210, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-326; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 229, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 220, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 127, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 453, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Prorated fee in lieu of tax, 15-24-304.
Sentence when no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

67-3-203. Registration application — payment of fees — deposit of fees. (1) The owner of an aircraft subject to the fee in lieu of property tax must submit an application for registration or registration renewal to the department on or before March 1 of each year. The application must be accompanied by the fee in lieu of tax prescribed in 67-3-206.

(2) An aircraft subject to the fee in lieu of tax may not be registered until payment of the fee is made to the department.

(3) All fees paid to the department for registration must be deposited to the account established in 67-3-205.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 1987.

67-3-204. Fee in lieu of tax on registered aircraft — decal. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), aircraft required to be registered in Montana are subject to a fee. The registration fee is in lieu of property tax.

(2) The department shall issue a decal to the owner of the aircraft required to be registered at the time of payment of the registration fee in lieu of tax, as provided in 67-3-201. No aircraft subject to a fee in lieu of tax may be operated in this state unless there is displayed on the aircraft a decal as visual proof that the fee in lieu of tax has been paid for the aircraft and that the aircraft is registered for the current year.

(3) Aircraft that meet the description of property described in 15-6-145 are exempt from the fee imposed by subsection (1). Aircraft subject to the fee in lieu of tax are exempt from all other taxation.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 453, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 773, L. 1991.

67-3-205. Aircraft registration account — source of funds — allocation. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to which must be credited all money received from fees paid in lieu of tax on aircraft, as required in 15-24-304 and this part, and all penalties collected for registration violations, as provided in 67-3-202.

(2) Money in the account is allocated to the aeronautics operations account provided for in 67-1-308.

(3) The allocations required in subsection (2) must be made when received by the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 453, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 628, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 2019.

67-3-206. Schedule of fees in lieu of tax for aircraft. (1) The appropriate fee in lieu of tax imposed on aircraft is based on the age and type of aircraft and must be determined from the following schedule:

	YEARS				
	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 40
Single engine, fixed gear, 200 horsepower and under	$ 450	$ 262.50	$ 150	$ 75	$ 37.50
Single engine, fixed gear, over 200 horsepower	750	375	225	112.50	75
Single engine, retractable gear, 200 horsepower and under	900	450	262.50	150	112.50
Single engine, retractable gear, over 200 horsepower	1,050	600	300	187.50	150
Multi-engine, piston engine	1,200	750	375	262.50	225
Helicopter, piston engine	1,050	675	337.50	225	187.50
Single engine jet helicopter, prop jet	2,250	1,050	675	450	262.50
Multi-engine jet helicopter, prop jet	3,000	1,500	900	600	300
Jet engine, no propeller	4,500	2,250	1,200	750	375

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the age of an aircraft is determined by subtracting the manufacturer's designated model year from the current calendar year.

(b) If the purchase year of an aircraft precedes the designated model year of the aircraft and the aircraft is originally titled in Montana, then the purchase year is considered the model year for the purposes of calculating the fee in lieu of tax.

(3) The fee in lieu of tax imposed on any glider, ultralight, gyrocopter, balloon, homebuilt aircraft, antiques, or any aircraft over 40 years old is $30.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 453, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 402, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 455, L. 2019.

67-3-207 through 67-3-210 reserved.

67-3-211. Aircrew licensing. Except as provided in 67-3-102, a person may not engage in aeronautics as an aircrew member in this state unless the person has from the department an effective certificate of registration of an appropriate effective aircrew member's license, certificate, or permit issued or approved by the United States government authorizing the aircrew member to engage in the particular class of aeronautics in which the aircrew member is engaged.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-301(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-3-212. Flight plan required. (1) The pilot of each flight carrying passengers and originating at a Montana public airport and to be flown under visual flight rules over a distance greater than 250 nautical miles is required to file a flight plan with the federal aviation administration.

(2) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

67-3-213 through 67-3-220 reserved.

67-3-221. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-303.

Part 3
Airport Licensing
(Repealed)

67-3-301. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-304.

67-3-302. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-305.

67-3-303. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-306.

67-3-304. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 152, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-308.

67-3-305. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 152, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 1-307.

67-3-306. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 152, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 1-309.

Part 4
Air Operators and Air Carriers
(Repealed)

67-3-401. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-314.

67-3-402. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-315.

67-3-403. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-316.

67-3-404. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-318.

67-3-405. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 122, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-320.

67-3-406 through 67-3-420 reserved.

67-3-421. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323(1).

67-3-422. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.1 by Sec. 28, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.1.

67-3-423. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.2 by Sec. 29, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.2.

67-3-424. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.3 by Sec. 30, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.3.

67-3-425. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.4 by Sec. 31, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.4.

67-3-426. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.5 by Sec. 32, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.5.

67-3-427. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. 1-323.6 by Sec. 33, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-323.6.

67-3-428. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-324.

67-3-429. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 1991.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-322.

CHAPTER 4
NOISE, HEIGHT, AND LAND USE REGULATION (Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Airport Influence Areas (Repealed)

Part 3 — Rules, Permits, and Variances (Repealed)

Part 4 — Remedies (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions (Repealed)

67-4-101. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-724 by Sec. 1, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-724.

67-4-102. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-725 by Sec. 2, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-725.

Part 2
Airport Influence Areas (Repealed)

67-4-201. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-726 by Sec. 3, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-726; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-4-202. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-727 by Sec. 4, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-727; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-4-203. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-728 by Sec. 5, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-728.

67-4-204. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-732 by Sec. 9, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-732.

67-4-205 through 67-4-210 reserved.

67-4-211. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-731 by Sec. 8, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-731; amd. Sec. 172, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Part 3
Rules, Permits, and Variances
(Repealed)

67-4-301. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-729 by Sec. 6, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-729.

67-4-302. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-730 by Sec. 7, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-730.

67-4-303. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-738 by Sec. 15, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-738.

67-4-304. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-737 by Sec. 14, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-737.

67-4-305 through 67-4-310 reserved.

67-4-311. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-734 by Sec. 11, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-734.

67-4-312. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-736 by Sec. 13, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-736.

67-4-313. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-733 by Sec. 10, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-733; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-4-314. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-735 by Sec. 12, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-735.

Part 4
Remedies
(Repealed)

67-4-401. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-739 by Sec. 16, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-739(1).

67-4-402. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. 1-739 by Sec. 16, Ch. 551, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-739(2).

CHAPTER 5
AIRPORT HAZARD REGULATION
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Regulation and Restriction (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

67-5-101. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-701.

67-5-102. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 12, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 1-707.

Part 2
Regulation and Restriction
(Repealed)

67-5-201. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 12, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-702.

67-5-202. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 12, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 1-705; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

67-5-203. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 12, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-704.

67-5-204. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 12, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 1-708.

67-5-205 through 67-5-210 reserved.

67-5-211. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 1-703; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-5-212. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 12, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 1-709.

CHAPTER 6
AIRPORT ZONING ACT
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Zoning (Repealed)

Part 3 — Miscellaneous Provisions (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

67-6-101. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-723.

67-6-102. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-711.

67-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-719.

Part 2
Zoning
(Repealed)

67-6-201. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-712.

67-6-202. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-714.

67-6-203. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-715.

67-6-204. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-713.

67-6-205. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-717.

67-6-206. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-718.**

67-6-207. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-716.**

67-6-208 through 67-6-210 reserved.

67-6-211. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-720.**

Part 3
Miscellaneous Provisions
(Repealed)

67-6-301. Repealed. Sec. 29, Ch. 300, L. 2005.
History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 287, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-721; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

CHAPTER 7
AIRPORT AFFECTED AREAS

Part 1 — General Provisions

67-7-101. Short title.
67-7-102. Legislative finding and purpose.
67-7-103. Definitions.

Part 2 — Designation and Regulation of Airport Affected Areas

67-7-201. Designation of airport affected area — regulations required — maps and descriptions required — public hearing required — effect of designation.
67-7-202. Joint airport affected area regulation board authorized — may adopt regulations.
67-7-203. Airport affected area regulations — contents.
67-7-204. State lands.
67-7-205 through 67-7-207 reserved.
67-7-208. Procedure for developing or amending regulations — assistance from existing boards or zoning commissions.
67-7-209. Prior nonconforming uses.
67-7-210. Acquisition of property rights when regulations not sufficient.
67-7-211. Regulations relative to zoning ordinances.
67-7-212. Permit system.

Part 3 — Enforcement and Variances

67-7-301. Enforcement.
67-7-302. Appeals.
67-7-303. Variance.
67-7-304. Penalty.
67-7-305. Injunction.

Part 1
General Provisions

67-7-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Airport Compatibility Act".
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-102. Legislative finding and purpose. The legislature finds that tall trees and structures and certain types of development located in the vicinity of airports endanger the lives and property of users of the airport and of occupants of land in its vicinity. The legislature also finds that the location of tall trees and structures and certain types of development near airports reduces the area available for landing, taking off, and maneuvering aircraft and increases the likelihood of legal action against a local government for noise nuisance, thus destroying the utility of the airports and the public investment in them. It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by the delineation of an airport affected area and by the development of compatible noise, height, and land use regulations to control airport hazards. The prevention of the creation or establishment of airport hazards and the elimination, removal, alteration, mitigation, or marking and lighting of existing airport hazards are public purposes for which political subdivisions may raise and expend public funds and in which political subdivisions may acquire land or property interests.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-103. Definitions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the definitions in 67-1-101 apply to this chapter.

(2) In this chapter, the following definitions also apply:

(a) "Airport affected area" means the land and space above the ground surface of an airport in the proximity of the airport, the use of which may be affected by the airport's existence, including the areas described in 14 CFR, part 77.

(b) "Governing body" means a city commission, town council, county commission, or the commissioners of a municipal or regional airport authority.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

Part 2
Designation and Regulation of Airport Affected Areas

67-7-201. Designation of airport affected area — regulations required — maps and descriptions required — public hearing required — effect of designation. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5), a governing body of a political subdivision that owns or controls an NPIAS airport or that has an airport affected area for an NPIAS airport within its territorial limits or a joint board established pursuant to 67-7-202 shall, by ordinance or resolution, exercising its police power:

(a) designate an airport affected area within 1 year of April 19, 2005;

(b) concurrently adopt regulations for the airport affected area that comply with 67-7-203; and

(c) administer and enforce the regulations that are adopted.

(2) A governing body of a political subdivision that owns or controls a non-NPIAS airport or that has an airport affected area for a non-NPIAS airport within its territorial limits or a joint board established pursuant to 67-7-202 may, by ordinance or resolution, exercising its police power, designate an airport affected area. If the governing body or joint board makes the designation, it shall concurrently adopt regulations for the airport affected area that may comply with 67-7-203 and shall administer and enforce the regulations.

(3) The airport affected area may not be less than 10,000 feet from the thresholds of each runway or less than 1 mile wide on each side of each runway unless evaluations for a specific runway show that the accident data justifies a lesser area. A greater area may be regulated as an airport affected area if:

(a) studies have been conducted in accordance with 14 CFR, part 150, maps of the area have been prepared, and a program has been approved by the federal aviation administration; or

(b) the governing body intends to protect imaginary surfaces as provided in 14 CFR, part 77.

(4) The designation must be accompanied by maps and legal descriptions of the airport affected area. The maps must be filed with the clerk and recorder of each affected county and with the clerk of each affected city or town.

(5) (a) Before a governing body designates an airport affected area and adopts or amends regulations governing the airport affected area, the governing body shall hold at least one public hearing.

(b) The notice of the public hearing must be published as provided in 7-1-2121 if the governing body is a county commission or the commissioners of a regional airport authority and as provided in 7-1-4127 if the governing body is a city commission, a town council, or the commissioners of a municipal airport authority.

(6) After the designation of an airport affected area, a person may not recover from a local government, an airport authority, an airport operator, or an airport owner damages caused by noise, fumes, vibrations, light, or any other effects from normal and anticipated normal airport operations.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-202. Joint airport affected area regulation board authorized — may adopt regulations. (1) If an airport affected area is located outside of the jurisdictional area of the governing body of the political subdivision that owns or controls the airport, the governing body of the political subdivision that owns or controls the airport and the governing body of the political subdivision within which the airport affected area is located may by ordinance or resolution create a joint airport affected area regulation board.

(2) The joint board may adopt, administer, and enforce airport affected area regulations, as provided in 67-7-201, subject to the provisions of 67-7-203.

(3) The joint board must have two members appointed by the governing body of each political subdivision participating in its creation, and a presiding officer must be elected by a majority of the members appointed. The members of the joint board who are appointed shall select an additional at-large member who resides in the county in which the airport is located.

(4) If, in the judgment of the governing body of the political subdivision that owns or controls an airport, the governing body of the political subdivision that contains the airport affected area has failed to adopt or enforce reasonably adequate airport affected area regulations for the airport affected area and if the governing body of the political subdivision that contains the airport affected area has refused to join in creating a joint board under this section, the governing body of the political subdivision that owns or controls the airport may adopt, administer, and enforce airport affected area regulations for the airport affected area. The regulations adopted by the governing body of the political subdivision that owns or controls the airport prevail if a conflict arises between regulations adopted by that governing body and the governing body of the political subdivision that contains the airport affected area.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-203. Airport affected area regulations — contents. (1) Subject to the provisions of 67-7-209, regulations adopted for the airport affected area must be reasonable, be designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and, for an NPIAS airport, at a minimum, give consideration to:

(a) the safety of airport users and persons and property in the vicinity of the airport;

(b) the character of the flying operations conducted or expected to be conducted at the airport;

(c) the nature of the terrain;

(d) the future development of the airport; and

(e) federal aviation administration recommendations for the aeronautical surfaces necessary for safe flying operations.

(2) Airport affected area regulations may:

(a) designate the airport or airports that are subject to the regulations, with a description of existing and future runways and approaches;

(b) define the terms used in the regulations based on the definitions provided in Title 67 and 14 CFR, part 77;

(c) describe the airport affected area by referencing maps and describing existing airport hazards and natural terrain that intrude into the airport affected area;

(d) designate and describe zones within the airport affected area, along with the height limitations for structures and trees within each zone, considering local conditions and needs, as well as the notice requirements and obstructions standards provided in 14 CFR, part 77;

(e) show the contours for decibel levels of 65 YDNL or greater on the maps that designate an airport affected area, if a study has been conducted pursuant to 14 CFR, part 150, and require that information to be considered by anyone who builds within the airport affected area;

(f) specify permitted and conditional uses within each zone of the airport affected area by addressing:

(i) incompatible land uses, such as uses for residences, schools, hospitals, day-care centers, or other concentrations of people indoors or outdoors;

(ii) the land uses that are considered incompatible with certain noise levels, as provided in 14 CFR, part 150;

(iii) bird attractants such as solid waste disposal sites and lagoons;

(iv) sources of electromagnetic radiation that may interfere with electronic navigational aids;

(v) lights other than navigational aids that glare upward or shine on or in the direction of the airport; and

(vi) the national transportation safety board's accident investigation data in the vicinity of airports and specific accident data for a particular airport, if that information is available;

(g) define nonconforming uses, measures to be taken to mitigate the nonconforming uses, and the expiration of the uses in accordance with this chapter;

(h) provide for an inventory of existing land uses, structures, and trees within the airport affected area;

(i) expand on the permit system provided pursuant to 67-7-212 for changes to existing land uses, including changes that affect structures or trees, and for new land uses, structures, or trees;

(j) subject to the provisions of 67-7-303, provide a variance procedure from the literal application of the regulations, including the conditions for granting a variance; and

(k) establish or designate local boards, commissions, or agents to administer and adjudicate interpretations of the regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-204. State lands. When an airport affected area lies partially or entirely on state-owned lands, the department of natural resources and conservation shall administer the affected lands in conformance with the airport affected area regulations adopted by the local governing body.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-205 through 67-7-207 reserved.

67-7-208. Procedure for developing or amending regulations — assistance from existing boards or zoning commissions. (1) In adopting, amending, and repealing airport affected area regulations under this chapter, a governing body or a joint airport affected area regulation board may request the assistance of existing planning boards or zoning commissions.

(2) If a political subdivision does not have an existing planning board or zoning commission to assist with recommendations for airport affected area regulations, the governing body may:

(a) request that an existing airport board recommend the boundaries of the airport affected area and the various zones to be established and the regulations that will govern the airport affected area; or

(b) act without assistance of an airport board, planning board, or zoning commission.

(3) If a governing body or joint airport affected area regulation board uses a separate airport board, planning board, or zoning commission to assist the governing body or joint board in designating the airport affected area and establishing regulations to govern the airport affected area, the airport board, planning board, or zoning commission shall make a preliminary report and hold public hearings on the report before submitting its final report to the governing body or joint board. The governing body or joint board may not hold a public hearing or take action on the regulations until it has received the final report from the airport board, planning board, or zoning commission.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-209. Prior nonconforming uses. (1) All regulations adopted under this chapter must be reasonable and may not require the removal or alteration of any structure or tree or require cessation or alteration of a use that is lawfully in existence when the regulations become effective. Those structures, trees, or uses must be treated as prior nonconforming structures, trees, or uses that may remain or continue, but regulations may prohibit their expansion or their reconstruction or replacement following destruction or substantial damage. For the purposes of this section, "substantial damage" has occurred when 80% or more of a structure or tree is deteriorated or decayed or has been torn down or destroyed.

(2) The regulations may require that trees in place at the time that the regulations take effect be maintained by the political subdivision, at its expense, at heights attained at that time.

(3) The regulations may require the owner of structures or trees to permit the political subdivision, at its expense, to install, operate, and maintain the lights and markers necessary to warn pilots of the presence of an airport hazard.

(4) Land in existing residential subdivisions or platted for residential subdivision at the time that regulations are adopted may continue to be used for residential purposes, subject to notification provided to property owners that the lots are within an adopted airport affected area.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-210. Acquisition of property rights when regulations not sufficient. The political subdivision within which a property or nonconforming use is located or the political subdivision owning the airport or served by the airport may acquire, by purchase, grant, or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, an air right, aviation easement, or other estate or interest in the property or nonconforming structure or use that is necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. The governing body of the political subdivision may acquire an interest when:

(1) it is desirable to remove, lower, or otherwise terminate a nonconforming structure or use;

(2) the necessary approach protection cannot, because of constitutional limitations, be provided by airport affected area regulations under this chapter; or

(3) it appears advisable that the necessary approach protection be provided by acquisition of property rights rather than by airport affected area regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-211. Regulations relative to zoning ordinances. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), if a governing body has adopted a zoning ordinance or resolution, any regulations adopted under this chapter may be made a part of the zoning ordinance or resolution and may be administered and enforced in connection with it.

(2) The zoning ordinance or resolution may not limit the effectiveness or scope of the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(3) When a conflict exists between the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter and any zoning ordinances or resolutions applicable to the same area that the regulations are intended to govern, the more stringent limitation or requirement prevails.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-212. Permit system. (1) The regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter must provide for a permit system for erecting new structures or trees, changing uses of land or structures, and substantially altering, repairing, or replacing existing structures or replacing existing trees within the airport affected area.

(2) A permit may not be granted that would allow the establishment of an airport hazard or that would allow a nonconforming use, structure, or tree to become a greater hazard to air navigation than it was on the effective date of the designation of the airport affected area and the regulations adopted to protect the airport affected area.

(3) A permit granted pursuant to this chapter may require the owner of a structure or tree to allow the governing body, at the owner's expense, to install, operate, and maintain the lights and markers necessary to warn pilots of the presence of an airport hazard.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

Part 3
Enforcement and Variances

67-7-301. Enforcement. The governing body or its designated agent or agency is responsible for enforcing the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter. The regulations must provide for an enforcement officer and an appeal process from the decision of the enforcement officer, who may be an existing employee of the local government.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 300, L. 2005.**

67-7-302. Appeals. (1) The governing body that designated the airport affected area shall act as an airport appeals board or appoint an airport appeals board that functions in the same manner as a board of adjustment provided for in Title 76, chapter 2. If the governing body appoints an airport appeals board, the board must have at least three members.

(2) The provisions of 76-2-223 and 76-2-225 through 76-2-228 apply to the governing body of a county or an airport appeals board appointed by that governing body and the provisions of 76-2-323 and 76-2-325 through 76-2-328 apply to the governing body of a municipality or an airport appeals board appointed by that governing body when considering grievances relating to regulations, variances, or permits.

(3) If a governing body has appointed a board of adjustment under the provisions of 76-2-221 through 76-2-228 or 76-2-321 through 76-2-328, the governing body may designate the members of that board as the airport appeals board, in which case the terms of the members for the purposes of this chapter are concurrent with their terms as members of the board of adjustment.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-303. Variance. (1) A person intending to erect or increase the height of a structure, permit the growth of a tree, or use property in a manner that is not in accordance with the requirements of the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter may apply to the governing body or an enforcement officer appointed for this purpose by the governing body for a variance from the regulations.

(2) If an enforcement officer has been appointed by the governing body, the decision of the officer is final unless it is appealed to either the governing body or the airport appeals board, if one exists.

(3) A variance must be granted when a literal application or enforcement of the regulations would result in substantial practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship and when the variance would not be contrary to the public interest.

(4) A variance must be granted for a nonconforming use when there is no immediate hazard to safe flying operations or to persons and property in the vicinity of the airport and when the noise or vibrations from normal and anticipated normal airport operations would not be likely to cause damage to structures.

(5) A variance granted under this section may require the owner of a structure or tree to allow the political subdivision, at the owner's expense, to install, operate, and maintain the lights and markers necessary to warn pilots of the presence of an airport hazard.

(6) A person who builds a structure pursuant to a variance from the airport affected area regulations or who takes or buys property in an airport affected area for which a variance has been granted is on notice that the airport existed before the variance was granted and that normal and anticipated normal operations of the airport will result in noise, vibrations, and fumes being projected over the property. A person using a structure built pursuant to a variance may not collect damages from a governing body or local government or from an airport authority, airport operator, or airport owner for interference with the enjoyment of that structure caused by noise, vibrations, and fumes from normal and anticipated normal airport operations.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-304. Penalty. A person who violates the provisions of this chapter or the regulations adopted under 67-7-203 is subject to a civil penalty and a criminal penalty. The civil penalty is a fine of $100 for each day that the violation is not remedied after the governing body has given notification of the violation and held a hearing on the violation. The criminal penalty is a fine of $500, pursuant to 45-2-104.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-7-305. Injunction. A local governing body may institute in any court of competent jurisdiction an action to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

CHAPTERS 8 AND 9
RESERVED

CHAPTER 10
MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

67-10-101. Short title.
67-10-102. Acquisition and establishment of airports.
67-10-103. Public purpose.
67-10-104. Construction.

Part 2 — General Powers of Municipality Relating to Airports

67-10-201. General municipal powers.
67-10-202. Creation of board — funding — rules.
67-10-203. Mutual assistance.
67-10-204. Joint exercise of powers.
67-10-205. Joint airport board.
67-10-206. Joint fund.
67-10-207. Supplementary powers.
67-10-208 through 67-10-210 reserved.
67-10-211. Assistance in airport road construction — department of transportation.
67-10-212 through 67-10-220 reserved.
67-10-221. Airport property — acquisition by eminent domain.
67-10-222. Airport property — disposal.
67-10-223 through 67-10-230 reserved.
67-10-231. No limitation on airport hazard zoning.

Part 3 — Operation of Airports

67-10-301. Municipal regulation.
67-10-302. Granting of operation and use privileges.
67-10-303. Delegation of authority.

Part 4 — Finance

67-10-401. Appropriations — taxation.
67-10-402. Tax levy.
67-10-403. Liens.
67-10-404. Airport revenues and sale proceeds.
67-10-405. Federal and state money.
67-10-406. Tax exemption.

Parts 5 through 8 reserved

Part 9 — Courtesy Cars for Airports

67-10-901. Purpose.
67-10-902. Definitions.
67-10-903. Use of courtesy cars at airports — department responsibilities.
67-10-904. Responsibilities and obligations of municipality and third party.

Chapter Cross-References

Municipal and regional airport authorities, Title 67, ch. 11.
Out-of-state airport jurisdiction — reciprocity, 67-11-401.

Part 1
General Provisions

67-10-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Municipal Airports Act".

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-828; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 140, L. 1979.**

67-10-102. Acquisition and establishment of airports. (1) Counties, cities, and towns may, either individually or by the joint action of a county and one or more of the cities and towns within the county, acquire by gift, deed, purchase, or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, land for airport purposes. The local governments may use the land to establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, operate, and regulate airports for the use of airplanes and other aircraft.

(2) In addition, a county, city, or town may exercise the authority granted by this section by acting jointly with one or more counties, with one or more cities, with one or more towns, or with any combination of counties, cities, or towns. A multijurisdictional airport is not required to be located, in whole or in part, within the limits of each subdivision participating in the joint venture.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5668.35, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 1-801; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Power of city or town to acquire parking areas, 7-14-4801.
State airports — acquisition, 67-2-301.
Creation of airport board — funding — rules, 67-10-202.

67-10-103. Public purpose. (1) Land acquired, owned, controlled, or occupied by a county, city, or town, individually or pursuant to joint action for the purposes enumerated in 67-10-102, is acquired, owned, controlled, and occupied for a public use and as a matter of public necessity. Counties, cities, and towns, whether acting individually or jointly, have the right to acquire property for the enumerated purposes under the power of eminent domain as provided in Title 70, chapter 30.

(2) The following are public and governmental functions, exercised for a public purpose and as matters of public necessity:

(a) the acquisition of land or an interest in land pursuant to this chapter;

(b) the planning, acquisition, establishment, development, construction, improvement, maintenance, equipment, operation, regulation, protection, and policing of airports and air navigation facilities, including the acquisition or elimination of airport hazards; and

(c) the exercise of any other powers granted in this chapter to municipalities and other public agencies, to be severally or jointly exercised.

(3) All land and other property and privileges acquired and used by or on behalf of any municipality or other public agency in the manner and for the purposes enumerated in this chapter are acquired and used for public and governmental purposes and as a matter of public necessity and, in the case of a county or municipality, for county or municipal purposes, respectively.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5668.36, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 88, L. 1961; Sec. 1-802, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 288, L. 1947; Sec. 1-822, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-802, 1-822; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

No immunity from suit, 2-9-111.

67-10-104. Construction. This chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to make uniform so far as possible the laws and regulations of this state and other states and of the government of the United States having to do with the subject of municipal airports.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-826; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

Part 2
General Powers of Municipality Relating to Airports

Part Cross-References

Restrictions on annexation power, 7-2-4503.

67-10-201. General municipal powers. (1) A municipality may, out of any appropriations or other money made available for airport purposes, plan, establish, develop, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, protect, and police airports and air navigation facilities, either within or outside of the territorial limits of the municipality and within or outside of the territorial boundaries of this state. The airport purposes include the construction, installation, equipping, maintenance, and operation at airports of buildings and other facilities for the servicing of aircraft or for the comfort and accommodation of air travelers and the purchase and sale of supplies, goods, and commodities as an incident to the operation of its airport properties. A municipality may use any available property that it owns or controls for airport purposes. A municipality may acquire real or personal property or any interest in property by purchase, gift, devise, lease, eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise. A municipality may also acquire property interests, including easements, in airport hazards or land outside the boundaries of an airport or airport site that are necessary to:

(a) permit safe and efficient operation of the airport;

(b) permit the removal, elimination, obstruction-marking, or obstruction-lighting of airport hazards; or

(c) prevent the establishment of airport hazards.

(2) The municipality may, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise, acquire existing airports and air navigation facilities. However, a municipality may not acquire any airport or air navigation facility owned or controlled by another municipality or public agency of this or any other state without the consent of the municipality or public agency.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, a municipality may establish or acquire and maintain, within or bordering upon the territorial limits of the municipality, airports in, over, and upon any public waters of this state, any submerged lands under public waters, and any artificial or reclaimed lands that before the artificial making or reclamation constituted a portion of the submerged lands under the public waters. A municipality may construct and maintain terminal buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways, and bridges for approaches to or connecting with any airport and may construct and maintain landing floats and breakwaters for the protection of the other improvements.

(4) All air navigation facilities established or operated by municipalities must be supplementary to and coordinated in design and operation with air navigation facilities established and operated by the federal and state governments.

(5) A municipality may enter into any contracts necessary for the purposes provided by this chapter.

History: En. Secs. 2, 13, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-809, 1-820; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Airport easement acquisition, 67-2-301.
General powers of authority, 67-11-201.

67-10-202. Creation of board — funding — rules. (1) The county, city, or town, acting individually or acting jointly as authorized by 67-10-102, having established an airport and acquired property for that purpose, may construct, improve, equip, maintain, and operate the airport. The county, city, or town may create a board or body from the residents of the county, city, town, or joint subdivision of the state and may confer upon the board or body the jurisdiction for the improvement, equipment, maintenance, and operation of the airport. The board of county commissioners, the city or town council, or the board of county commissioners and the council or councils under a joint venture may adopt rules and establish fees or charges for the use of the airport or may authorize the board or body to do so, subject to the approval of the appointing power before the fees or charges may take effect. All expenses of the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance, and operation are a charge against the county, city, or town. When a county, city, or town acts jointly under the authority provided in this section, the charges are against the joint subdivision of the state and must be apportioned according to benefits to accrue, the proportion to be paid by each to be fixed in advance by joint resolution of the governing bodies.

(2) For the purpose of complying with subsection (1), when the airport is a joint venture, a joint fund must be created and maintained into which each of the political subdivisions in the joint venture shall deposit its proportionate share in accordance with the predetermination of the board of county commissioners and council or councils affected.

(3) All disbursements from the fund must be made by order of the joint board or body, if one is created as authorized, otherwise under the rules that the joint control by the commissioners and council or councils may adopt.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 108, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5668.37, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 1-803; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-10-203. Mutual assistance. If any municipality determines that the public interest and the interests of the municipality will be served by assisting any other municipality or municipalities in exercising the powers and authority granted by this chapter, such municipality may furnish assistance by gift of real or personal property or lease or loan thereof with or without charge or interest. In appropriating such property or money and providing for such assistance by taxation, the issuance of bonds, or other means, the municipality may exercise all of its powers as though used for its own direct purposes as provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-819; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

67-10-204. Joint exercise of powers. (1) For the purposes of 67-10-204 through 67-10-206, unless otherwise qualified, the term "public agency" includes municipality, as defined in this title; any agency of the state government and of the United States; and any municipality, political subdivision, and agency of another state; and the term "governing body" means the governing body of a county or municipality and the head of the agency if the public agency is other than a county or municipality.

(2) All powers, privileges, and authority granted to any municipality by this chapter may be exercised and enjoyed jointly with any public agency of this state and jointly with any public agency of any other state or of the United States to the extent that the laws of such other state or of the United States permit such joint exercise or enjoyment. If not otherwise authorized by law, any agency of the state government when acting jointly with any municipality may exercise and enjoy all of the powers, privileges, and authority conferred by this chapter upon a municipality.

(3) Any two or more public agencies may enter into agreements with each other for joint action pursuant to the provisions of 67-10-204 through 67-10-206. Concurrent action by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise of the governing bodies of the participating public agencies constitutes joint action. Each such agreement shall specify its duration; the proportionate interest which each public agency has in the property, facilities, and privileges involved; the proportion to be borne by each public agency of preliminary costs and costs of acquisition, establishment, construction, enlargement, improvement, and equipment of the airport or air navigation facility; the proportion of the expenses of maintenance, operation, regulation, and protection thereof to be borne by each; and such other terms as are required by the provisions of 67-10-204 through 67-10-206. The agreement may also provide for amendments thereof and conditions and methods of termination of the agreement; the disposal of all or any of the property, facilities, and privileges jointly owned, prior to or upon said property, facilities, and privileges, or any part thereof, ceasing to be used for the purposes provided in this chapter or upon termination of the agreement; the distribution of the proceeds received upon any such disposal and of any funds or other property jointly owned and undisposed of; the assumption or payment of any indebtedness arising from the joint venture which remains unpaid upon the disposal of all assets or upon a termination of the agreement; and such other provisions as may be necessary or convenient.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 288, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-821(a), (b); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Joint exercise of powers, 67-11-203.

67-10-205. Joint airport board. (1) Public agencies acting jointly pursuant to 67-10-204 through 67-10-206 shall create a joint board that must consist of members appointed by the governing body of each participating public agency. Per diem and mileage of the joint board may be set by resolution of the board of county commissioners. The number of members to be appointed and their terms must be provided for in the joint agreement. A joint board shall organize, select officers for terms to be fixed by the agreement, and from time to time adopt and amend rules for its own procedure. The joint board may plan, acquire, establish, develop, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, protect, and police any airport or air navigation facility or airport hazard to be jointly acquired, controlled, and operated. Subject to subsection (2), the board may exercise on behalf of its constituent public agencies all the powers of each public agency with respect to the airport, air navigation facility, or airport hazard.

(2) (a) The total expenditures to be made by the joint board for any purpose in any calendar year must be determined by a budget approved by the governing bodies of its constituent public agencies.

(b) An airport, air navigation facility, airport hazard, or real or personal property, the cost of which is in excess of sums fixed by the joint agreement or allotted in the annual budget, may not be acquired by the joint board without the approval of the governing bodies of its constituent public agencies.

(c) Eminent domain proceedings authorized under 67-10-204 through 67-10-206 and conducted as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, may be instituted only by authority of the governing bodies of the constituent public agencies of the joint board. If authorized, eminent domain proceedings must be instituted in the names of the constituent public agencies jointly, and the property acquired must be held by the public agencies as tenants in common until conveyed by them to the joint board.

(d) The joint board may not dispose of any airport, air navigation facility, or real property under its jurisdiction except with the consent of the governing bodies of its constituent public agencies. However, the joint board may, without consent, enter into the contract, lease, or other arrangements contemplated by 67-10-302.

(e) Any resolutions, rules, or orders of the joint board that deal with subjects authorized by 67-10-301 are effective only upon approval of the governing bodies of the constituent public agencies. Upon approval, the resolutions, rules, or orders of the joint board have the same force and effect in the territories or jurisdictions involved that the ordinance, resolutions, rules, or orders of each public agency would have in its own territory or jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 288, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-821(c), (d); amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State airports — acquisition, 67-2-301.
State airports — operation, 67-2-302.
Airport revenue and sale proceeds, 67-10-404.

67-10-206. Joint fund. For the purpose of providing a joint board with moneys for the necessary expenditures in carrying out the provisions of 67-10-204 and 67-10-205, a joint fund shall be created and maintained into which shall be deposited the share of each of the constituent public agencies as provided by the joint agreement. Each of the constituent public agencies shall provide its share of the fund from sources available to each. Any federal, state, or other contributions or loans and the revenues obtained from the joint ownership, control, and operation of any airport or air navigation facility under the jurisdiction of the joint board shall be paid into the joint fund. Disbursements from such fund shall be made by order of the board, subject to the limitations prescribed in 67-10-205(2).

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 288, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-821(e).

67-10-207. Supplementary powers. In addition to the general and special powers conferred by this chapter, every municipality is authorized to exercise powers necessarily incidental to the exercise of such general and special powers.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-824; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

67-10-208 through 67-10-210 reserved.

67-10-211. Assistance in airport road construction — department of transportation. The department of transportation may, upon written application of the governing body of a municipality, assist the municipality in the location, establishment, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and improvement of highways and roads to and from municipal airports and field development of them. The department of transportation shall lend its equipment, machinery, technical services, and supervision to the municipality, under agreements made with each municipality.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-807; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

General powers of Department of Transportation, 60-2-201.

67-10-212 through 67-10-220 reserved.

67-10-221. Airport property — acquisition by eminent domain. In the acquisition of property by eminent domain proceedings authorized by this chapter, the municipality shall proceed as provided in Title 70, chapter 30. The municipality is not precluded from abandoning the proceedings in any case in which possession of the property has not been taken.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-810; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

State airports — acquisition, 67-2-301.
Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.

67-10-222. Airport property — disposal. Except as may be limited by the terms and conditions of any grant, loan, or agreement pursuant to 67-10-405, every municipality may by sale, lease, or otherwise dispose of any airport, air navigation facility, or other property or portion thereof or interest therein acquired pursuant to this chapter. Such disposal by sale, lease, or otherwise shall be in accordance with the laws of this state or provisions of the charter of the municipality governing the disposition of other property of the municipality or agency of the state or federal government for aeronautical purposes incident thereto. The sale, lease, or other disposal may be effected in such manner and upon such terms as the governing body of the municipality may consider in the best interest of the municipality.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-811; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

67-10-223 through 67-10-230 reserved.

67-10-231. No limitation on airport hazard zoning. Nothing contained in this chapter limits any right, power, or authority of a municipality to regulate airport hazards by zoning or by establishing airport affected area regulations as provided in Title 67, chapter 7.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-825; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

Cross-References

No limitation on airport hazard zoning, 67-11-241.
Municipal zoning, Title 76, ch. 2, part 3.

Part 3
Operation of Airports

67-10-301. Municipal regulation. (1) A municipality which has established or acquired or which may establish or acquire an airport or air navigation facility is authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal such reasonable ordinances, resolutions, rules, and orders as it shall deem necessary for the management, government, and use of such airport or air navigation facility under its control, whether situated within or without the territorial limits of the municipality. For the enforcement thereof, the municipality may, by ordinance or resolution, as may by law be appropriate, appoint airport guards or police with full police powers and fix penalties within the limits prescribed by law for the violation of the ordinances, resolutions, rules, and orders. Said penalties shall be enforced in the same manner in which penalties prescribed by other ordinances or resolutions of the municipality are enforced. To the extent that an airport or other air navigation facility controlled and operated by a municipality is located outside the territorial limits of the municipality, it shall, subject to federal and state laws and rules, be under the jurisdiction and control of the municipality controlling or operating it, and no other municipality shall have any authority to charge or exact a license fee or occupation tax for operations thereon.

(2) All ordinances, resolutions, rules, or orders which are issued by the municipality shall be kept in substantial conformity with the laws of this state or any regulations promulgated or standards established pursuant thereto and, as nearly as may be, with the federal laws governing aeronautics and the rules and standards duly issued thereunder.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-815.

Cross-References

Airport police officers — employment, education, and certification standards — penalty, 7-32-303.
Passenger terminals — fire protection and safety regulations, Title 50, ch. 61, part 1.
Joint airport board acting for municipality, 67-10-205.
Tax exemption, 67-10-406.

67-10-302. Granting of operation and use privileges. (1) In operating an airport or air navigation facility owned, leased, or controlled by a municipality, the municipality may, except as may be limited by the terms and conditions of any grant, loan, or agreement pursuant to 67-10-405, enter into contracts, leases, and other arrangements for a term not exceeding 40 years with any persons:

(a) granting the privilege of using or improving the airport or air navigation facility or any portion or facility of or space in the airport or air navigation facility for commercial purposes;

(b) conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services, or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility; or

(c) making available services to be furnished by the municipality or its agents at the airport or air navigation facility.

(2) In each case, the municipality may establish the terms and conditions and fix the charges, rentals, or fees for the privileges or services, which must be reasonable and uniform for the same class of privilege or service.

(3) Except as may be limited by the terms and conditions of any grant, loan, or agreement pursuant to 67-10-405, a municipality may by contract, lease, or other arrangement, upon a consideration fixed by it, grant to any qualified person for a term not to exceed 40 years the privilege of operating, as agent of the municipality or otherwise, any airport owned or controlled by the municipality; provided that the person may not be granted any authority to operate the airport other than as a public airport or to enter into any contracts, leases, or other arrangements in connection with the operation of the airport which the municipality might not have undertaken under subsections (1) and (2).

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-812; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Airport all-beverages license, 16-4-208.
Airport all-beverages license fee, 16-4-501.

67-10-303. Delegation of authority. Any authority vested by this chapter in a municipality or in the governing body thereof for the planning, establishment, development, construction, enlargement, improvement, maintenance, equipment, operation, regulation, protection, and policing of airports or other air navigation facilities established, owned, or controlled or to be established, owned, or controlled by the municipality may be vested by resolution of the governing body of the municipality in an officer or board or other municipal agency whose powers and duties must be prescribed in the resolution. However, the expense of such planning, establishment, development, construction, enlargement, improvement, maintenance, equipment, operation, regulation, protection, and policing is a responsibility of the municipality.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-814; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1979.**

Part 4
Finance

67-10-401. Appropriations — taxation. The governing body of any municipality having power to appropriate and raise money is authorized to appropriate, and to raise by taxation or otherwise, sufficient money to carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter, within the limitations prescribed by law.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-816; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 140, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

General powers of airport authority, 67-11-201.
Municipal tax levy, 67-11-301.

67-10-402. Tax levy. (1) Subject to 15-10-420 and for the purpose of establishing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating airports and ports under the provisions of this chapter and as provided in Title 7, chapter 14, part 11, the county commissioners or the city or town council may each year assess and levy a tax on the taxable value of all taxable property in the county, city, or town for airports and ports.

(2) In the event of a jointly established airport or port, the county commissioners and the city or town council or councils involved shall determine in advance the levy necessary for those purposes and the proportion that each political subdivision joining in the venture is required to pay.

(3) If the levy is insufficient for the purposes enumerated in subsection (1), the commissioners and councils are authorized and empowered to contract an indebtedness on behalf of the county, city, or town by borrowing money or issuing bonds for those purposes. However, bonds may not be issued until the proposition has been submitted to the qualified electors and approved by a majority vote, except as provided in subsection (4).

(4) For the purpose of establishing a reserve fund to resurface, overlay, or improve existing runways, taxiways, and ramps, the governing bodies may set up annual reserve funds in their annual budget if:

(a) the reserve is approved by the governing bodies during the normal budgeting procedure;

(b) the necessity to resurface or improve runways by overlays or similar methods periodically is based upon competent engineering estimates; and

(c) the funds are expended at least within each 10-year period.

(5) The reserve fund may not exceed at any time a competent engineering estimate of the cost of resurfacing or overlaying the existing runways, taxiways, and ramps of any one airport for each fund. The governing body of the airport or port, if in its judgment it considers it advantageous, may invest the fund in any interest-bearing deposits in a state or national bank insured by the FDIC or obligations of the United States of America, either short-term or long-term. Interest earned from the investments must be credited to the operations and maintenance budget of the airport or port governing body.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5668.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 54, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 158, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 501, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 1-804; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 456, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 300, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 453, L. 2005.

Cross-References

All-purpose mill levy authorized, 7-6-4451.
Limitation on property taxes, Title 15, ch. 10, part 4.
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Title 32, ch. 1, part 6.
Finance, Title 67, ch. 11, part 3.

67-10-403. Liens. To enforce the payment of charges for repairs or improvements to or storage, service, or care of any aircraft or other personal property made or furnished by an airport, person, or entity or an agent of an airport, person, or entity in connection with the operation of an aircraft, airport, or air navigation facility, the airport, person, entity, or agent has a lien on the property, which is enforceable as provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-813; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

67-10-404. Airport revenues and sale proceeds. The revenues obtained by a municipality from the ownership, control, or operation of any airport or air navigation facility, including proceeds from the sale of any airport or portion thereof or air navigation facility property, must be deposited in a special fund to be designated the "_______ airport fund", which revenues must be appropriated solely to, and used by the municipality for the purposes authorized by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-817; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

67-10-405. Federal and state money. (1) A municipality may accept, receive, receipt for, disburse, and spend federal and state money and other money, public or private, made available by grant or loan or both to accomplish any of the purposes of this chapter. All federal money accepted under this section must be accepted and spent by the municipality upon terms and conditions prescribed by the United States and consistent with state law. All state money accepted under this section must be accepted and spent by the municipality upon terms and conditions prescribed by the state. Unless otherwise prescribed by the agency from which the money is received, the chief financial officer of the municipality shall on its behalf deposit and keep all money received pursuant to this section in separate funds, designated according to the purposes for which the money is made available, in trust for those purposes.

(2) No application may be made by a municipality for federal aid, as provided in this section, unless the "project application", as defined in the Federal Airport Act of 1946 and regulations of the administrator of civil aeronautics, is first approved by the department.

(3) A municipality may, with the approval and consent of the department, designate the department as its agent to accept, receive, receipt for, and disburse federal and state money and other money, public or private, made available by grant or loan or both to accomplish any of the purposes of this chapter. A municipality may, with the consent of the department, designate the department as its agent in contracting for and supervising the planning, acquisition,

development, construction, improvement, or equipment of an airport or other air navigation facility. All contracts made, let, or awarded by the department acting as agent of a municipality under this section must be made, let, or awarded pursuant to the laws governing the making of contracts by or on behalf of the state. The municipality may enter into an agreement with the department providing for payment to the department for services rendered as agent and prescribing the terms and conditions of the agency, in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the United States, if federal money is involved and in accordance with applicable state law. All federal money accepted under this section by the department must be accepted and transferred or spent by the department upon terms and conditions prescribed by the United States. All money received by the department under this subsection must be deposited in the state treasury and, unless otherwise prescribed by the agency from which the money is received, must be kept in separate funds designated according to the purposes for which the money is made available and held by the state in trust for those purposes.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 288, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-818; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Federal aid, 67-2-403.

Airport property — disposal, 67-10-222.

67-10-406. Tax exemption. Any property in this state acquired by a municipality for airport purposes pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and any income derived by such municipality from the ownership, operation, or control thereof is exempt from taxation to the same extent as other property used for public purposes. Any municipality is authorized to exempt from municipal taxation any property acquired within its boundaries by a public agency of another state for airport purposes and any income derived from such property to the extent that such other states authorize similar exemptions from taxation to municipalities of this state.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 288, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 1-823; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 140, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Tax-exempt property, Title 15, ch. 6, part 2.

Parts 5 through 8 reserved

Part 9

Courtesy Cars for Airports

67-10-901. Purpose. (1) The purpose of this part is to provide grants to municipalities and third parties for courtesy cars at certain Montana airports where rental cars or taxicabs are not available for service at all times.

(2) The purpose of the program is to provide the airport users with ground transportation for short-term use between the airport and the local trading or recreation area.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 2021.

67-10-902. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Airport" means an airport, as defined in 67-1-101, that does not have commercial automobile rental services available. The term includes a regional airport authority or municipal airport authority as defined in 67-1-101.

(2) "Courtesy car" means a motor vehicle provided by, and titled in the name of, a municipality or third party for the purposes of and pursuant to the conditions set out in this part.

(3) (a) "User" means an airplane pilot or an airplane passenger who flies into an airport.

(b) The term does not include local residents or airport personnel.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 452, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 300, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 469, L. 2021.

67-10-903. Use of courtesy cars at airports — department responsibilities. (1) Upon the request of a municipality or third party, the department may provide grant money from the department's special revenue account for courtesy cars for use at qualified airports, as provided in this part.

(2) A courtesy car grant may not be awarded if commercial rental cars or taxicabs that provide service to local airports are available for service at all times.

(3) The department shall provide preference for the purchase of vehicles that are accessible to persons with disabilities when awarding grants from the courtesy car program.

(4) The department may adopt necessary rules, pursuant to its authority in 67-2-102, to provide courtesy car grants, including rules regarding the receipt and review of grant applications.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 452, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 469, L. 2021.

67-10-904. Responsibilities and obligations of municipality and third party. (1) A municipality may apply to the department for a grant to provide courtesy car services at a qualified airport. The municipality may procure a third party and assign the third party to a qualified airport to manage the courtesy car program. A third party may be a fixed base operator, an airport manager, a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), or other responsible party. The municipality shall ensure that the third party is familiar with and complies with all conditions of the courtesy car program.

(2) A municipality or third party may not provide a courtesy car for use by local residents or airport personnel except to facilitate incidental maintenance of the courtesy car.

(3) A courtesy car may be used only between the awarded airport and the local trading or recreation area. Travel in a courtesy car across the state line or beyond the local trading or recreation area is prohibited.

(4) A courtesy car must be kept at the awarded airport when not in use and must be available for users who fly into the airport.

(5) The recipient of the courtesy car grant shall procure liability insurance as required by 61-6-301.

(6) A courtesy car may not be used unless the municipality or the third party has obtained certification that the user has personal motor vehicle liability insurance coverage as required in 61-6-301.

(7) For airports owned, maintained, or operated by the state, the department may distribute grant money to a third party to purchase a courtesy car for use to and from the state airport as long as the department ensures the third party is familiar with and complies with all conditions of the courtesy car program.

(8) In accordance with federal and state nondiscrimination laws and requirements, all vehicles purchased with grant funds from the courtesy car program or vehicles donated to the courtesy car program must be accessible to persons with disabilities or the grantee must provide a vehicle accessible to persons with disabilities on request.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 452, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 469, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 16, 2023.

CHAPTER 11
AIRPORT AUTHORITIES

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Chapter Cross-References

Port authorities, Title 7, ch. 14, part 11.

Part 1
Organization and General Provisions

67-11-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Airport Authorities Act".

History: En. 1-925 by Sec. 24, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-925.

67-11-102. Municipal airport authority. Any municipality may, by resolution of its governing body, create a public body, corporate and politic, to be known as a municipal airport authority which shall be authorized to exercise its functions upon the appointment and qualification of the first commissioners thereof; or the governing body may by resolution determine to exercise any or all powers granted to such authorities in this chapter until or unless such powers are or have been conferred upon a municipal or regional airport authority. Upon the adoption of a resolution creating a municipal airport authority, the governing body of the municipality shall, pursuant to the resolution, appoint not less than five persons as commissioners of the authority. The commissioners who are first appointed shall be designated to serve for terms of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 years, respectively, but thereafter each commissioner shall be appointed for a term of 5 years, except that vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of the term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the governing body.

History: En. 1-904 by Sec. 4, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-904.

67-11-103. Regional airport authority. (1) Two or more municipalities may by joint resolution create a public body, corporate and politic, to be known as a regional airport authority. The resolution creating a regional airport authority must create a board of not less than five commissioners; the number to be appointed, their term and compensation, if any, must be provided for in the resolution. Each regional airport authority shall organize, select officers for terms to be fixed by agreement, and adopt and amend from time to time rules for its own procedure consistent with 67-11-104.

(2) A regional airport authority may be increased to serve one or more additional municipalities if each additional municipality and each of the municipalities then included in the regional authority and the commissioners of the regional authority, respectively, adopt a joint resolution consenting to the increase. If a municipal airport authority for any municipality seeking to be included in the regional authority is then in existence, the commissioners of the municipal authority shall consent to the inclusion of the municipality in the regional authority. Upon the inclusion of any municipality in the regional authority, all rights, contracts, obligations, and property, real and personal, of the municipal authority must be in the name of and vest in the regional authority.

(3) A regional airport authority may be decreased if each of the municipalities then included in the regional authority and the commissioners of the regional authority consent to the decrease and make provisions for the retention or disposition of its assets and liabilities.

(4) A municipality may not adopt any resolution authorized by this section without a public hearing on the resolution. Notice of the hearing must be given at least 10 days prior to the hearing in a newspaper published in the municipality or, if there is no newspaper published in the municipality, in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

(5) For the purpose of this chapter, a regional airport authority has the same powers as all other political subdivisions in the adoption and enforcement of airport affected area regulations as provided for in this title.

History: En. 1-905, 1-909 by Secs. 5, 8, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-905, 1-909(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

67-11-104. Commissioners. (1) The powers of each authority are vested in the commissioners of the authority. A majority of the commissioners of an authority constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business of the authority and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the authority upon a vote of not less than a majority of the commissioners present.

(2) There must be elected a presiding officer and vice presiding officer from among the commissioners. An authority may employ an executive director, secretary, technical experts, and other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, that it may require and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. An authority may delegate to one or more of its agents or employees powers or duties that it considers proper.

(3) A commissioner of an authority is entitled to the necessary expenses, including travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the discharge of the commissioner's duties. Each commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified by law to serve. The certificates of the appointment and reappointment of commissioners must be filed with the authority.

History: En. 1-908 by Sec. 7, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-908; amd. Sec. 1978, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 77, L. 2009.

67-11-105. Functions — public and governmental. The acquisition of any land or interest therein, pursuant to this chapter; the planning, acquisition, establishment, development, construction, improvement, maintenance, equipment, operation, regulation, and protection of airports and air navigation facilities, including the acquisition or elimination of airport hazards, and the exercise of any powers herein granted to authorities and other public agencies to be severally or jointly exercised are hereby declared to be public and governmental functions, exercised for a public purpose, and matters of public necessity. All land and other property and privileges acquired and used by or on behalf of any authority or other public agency in the manner and for the purposes enumerated in this chapter shall and are hereby declared to be acquired and used for public and governmental purposes and as a matter of public necessity.

History: En. 1-919 by Sec. 18, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-919.

67-11-106. Cooperation of municipality. For the purpose of aiding and cooperating in the planning, undertaking, construction, or operation of airports and air navigation facilities pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, any municipality for which an authority has been created upon such terms, with or without consideration, as it may determine, may:

(1) lend or donate money to the authority;

(2) provide that all or a portion of the taxes or funds available or to become available to or required by law to be used by the municipality for airport purposes be transferred or paid directly to the airport authority as such funds become available to the municipality;

(3) cause water, sewer, or drainage facilities or any other facilities which it is empowered to provide to be furnished adjacent to or in connection with such airports or air navigation facilities;

(4) dedicate, sell, convey, or lease any of its interest in any property or grant easements, licenses, or any other rights or privileges therein to the authority;

(5) furnish, dedicate, close, pave, install, grade, regrade, plan or replan streets, roads, roadways, and walks from established streets or roads to such airports or air navigation facilities;

(6) do any and all things, whether or not specifically authorized in this section and not otherwise prohibited by law, that are necessary or convenient to aid and cooperate with the authority in the planning, undertaking, construction, or operation of airports and air navigation facilities; and

(7) enter into agreements with the authority respecting action to be taken by the municipality pursuant to the provisions of this section.

History: En. 1-921 by Sec. 20, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-921.

Cross-References

Municipal tax levy, 67-11-301.

Part 2
Powers

67-11-201. General powers of authority. An authority has all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including, subject to 15-10-420, the power to certify annually to the governing bodies creating it the amount of tax to be levied by the governing bodies for airport purposes. Authority powers include but are not limited to the power to:

(1) sue and be sued, have a seal, and have perpetual succession;

(2) execute contracts, including alternative project delivery contracts as provided for in Title 18, chapter 2, part 5, and other instruments and take other action that may be necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(3) plan, establish, acquire, develop, construct, purchase, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, and protect airports and air navigation facilities, within this state and within any adjoining state, including the acquisition, construction, installation, equipment, maintenance, and operation at the airports or buildings and other facilities for the servicing of aircraft or for comfort and accommodation of air travelers and the purchase and sale of supplies, goods, and commodities that are incident to the operation of its airport properties. For the authorized purposes, an authority may, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise, acquire property, real or personal, or any interest in property, including easements in airport hazards or land outside the boundaries of an airport or airport site, that is necessary to permit the removal, elimination, obstruction-marking, or obstruction-lighting of airport hazards or to prevent the establishment of airport hazards.

(4) establish airport affected area regulations in accordance with this title;

(5) acquire, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, eminent domain proceedings, or otherwise, existing airports and air navigation facilities. However, an authority may not acquire or take over any airport or air navigation facility owned or controlled by another authority, a municipality, or a public agency of this or any other state without the consent of the authority, municipality, or public agency.

(6) establish or acquire and maintain airports in, over, and upon any public waters of this state or any submerged lands under public waters, provided that the authority has obtained the approval of the owner or agency that controls the water, and construct and maintain terminal buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways, and bridges for approaches to or connecting with any airport and landing floats and breakwaters for the protection of the airport.

History: En. 1-909 by Sec. 8, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-909(part); amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 300, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 574, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Limitation on property taxes, Title 15, ch. 10, part 4.

Procurement of architectural, engineering, and land surveying services by governmental entities, Title 18, ch. 8, part 2.

Airport easements, 67-2-301(3).

General municipal powers, 67-10-201.

Airport property — acquisition by eminent domain, 67-11-231.

Out-of-state airport jurisdiction — reciprocity, 67-11-401.

67-11-202. Rules. An authority is authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal such reasonable resolutions, rules, and orders as it shall deem necessary for the management, government, and use of any airport or air navigation facility owned by it or under its control. No rule, order, or standard prescribed by the commission shall be inconsistent with or contrary to any act of the congress of the United States or any regulation promulgated or standard established pursuant thereto. The authority shall keep on file at the principal office of the authority for public inspection a copy of all its rules.

History: En. 1-914 by Sec. 13, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-914.

67-11-203. Joint exercise of powers. (1) For the purposes of 67-11-203 through 67-11-205, unless otherwise qualified, the term "public agency" includes municipality and authority, each as defined in this title; any agency of the state government and of the United States; and any municipality, political subdivision, or agency of an adjoining state. The term "governing body" includes commissioners of an authority, the governing body of a municipality, and the head of an agency of a state or the United States if the public agency is other than an authority or municipality.

(2) All powers, privileges, and authority granted by this chapter may be exercised and enjoyed by an authority jointly with any public agency of this state and jointly with any public agency of any adjoining state or of the United States to the extent that the laws of such other state or of the United States permit such joint exercise or enjoyment. Any agency of the state government, when acting jointly with any authority, may exercise and enjoy all the powers, privileges, and authority conferred by this chapter upon an authority.

(3) Any two or more public agencies may enter into agreements with each other for joint action pursuant to the provisions of 67-11-203 through 67-11-205. Each agreement shall specify its duration; the proportionate interest which each public agency will have in the property, facilities, and privileges involved in the joint undertaking; the proportion of costs of operation, capital outlay, and maintenance to be borne by each public agency; and such other terms as are considered necessary or required by law. The agreement may also provide for amendments and termination; disposal of all or any of the property, facilities, and privileges jointly owned prior to or at such times as the property, facilities, and privileges or any part thereof cease to be used for the purposes provided in this chapter or upon termination of the agreement; the distribution of the proceeds received upon any disposal and of any funds or other property jointly owned and undisposed of; the assumption of payment of any indebtedness arising from the joint undertaking which remains unpaid upon the disposal of all assets or upon a termination of the agreement; and such other provisions as may be necessary or convenient.

History: En. 1-918 by Sec. 17, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-918(1), (2).

Cross-References

Municipal airports — joint exercise of powers, 67-10-204.

67-11-204. Joint board. (1) Public agencies acting jointly pursuant to 67-11-203 through 67-11-205 shall create a joint board that must consist of members appointed by the governing body of each participating public agency. The number of members to be appointed and their terms and compensation, if any, must be provided for in the joint agreement. A joint board shall organize, select officers for terms that are fixed by the agreement, and adopt and amend from time to time rules for its own procedure. The joint board, as agent of the participating public agencies, may plan, acquire, establish, develop, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, protect, and police any airport or air navigation facility or airport hazard to be jointly acquired, controlled, and operated. Subject to subsection (2), the board may be authorized by the participating public agencies to exercise on behalf of its constituent public agencies all the powers of each public agency with respect to the airport, air navigation facility, or airport hazard.

(2) (a) The total expenditures to be made by the joint board for any purpose in a calendar year must be as determined by a budget approved by the constituent public agencies on or before the preceding June 10 or as otherwise specifically authorized by the constituent public agencies.

(b) An airport, air navigation facility, airport hazard, or real or personal property, the cost of which is in excess of sums fixed by the joint agreement or allotted in the annual budget, may not be acquired, established, or developed by the joint board without the approval of the governing bodies of its constituent public agencies.

(c) Eminent domain proceedings under 67-11-203 through 67-11-205 and Title 70, chapter 30, may be instituted by the joint board only by authority of the governing bodies of the constituent public agencies of the joint board. If authorized, the proceedings must be instituted in the names of the constituent public agencies jointly, and the property acquired must be held by the public agencies as tenants in common.

(d) The joint board may not dispose of any airport, air navigation facility, or real property under its jurisdiction except with the consent of the governing bodies of its constituent public agencies. However, the joint board may, without consent, enter into contracts, leases, or other arrangements contemplated by 67-11-211.

(e) Resolutions, rules, or orders of the joint board that deal with subjects authorized by 67-11-211 become effective only upon approval of the governing bodies of the constituent public agencies. However, upon approval, the resolutions, rules, or orders of the joint board have the same force in the territories or jurisdictions involved that the ordinances, resolutions, rules, or orders of each public agency would have in its own territory or jurisdiction.

History: En. 1-918 by Sec. 17, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-918(3), (4); amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

67-11-205. Joint fund. For the purpose of providing the joint board with moneys for the necessary expenditures in carrying out the provisions of 67-11-203 through 67-11-205, a joint fund shall be created and maintained, into which shall be deposited the share of each of the constituent public agencies as provided by the joint agreement. Any federal, state, or other grants, contributions, or loans and the revenues obtained from the joint ownership, control, and operation of any airport or air navigation facility under the jurisdiction of the joint board shall be paid into the joint fund. Disbursements from such fund shall be made by order of the board, subject to the limitations prescribed in 67-11-204(2).

History: En. 1-918 by Sec. 17, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-918(5).

67-11-206. Supplementary powers. In addition to the general and special powers conferred by this chapter, every authority is authorized to exercise such powers as are necessary incidental to the exercise of such general and special powers.

History: En. 1-923 by Sec. 22, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-923.

67-11-207 through 67-11-210 reserved.

67-11-211. Granting of operation and use privileges. (1) In connection with the operation of an airport or air navigation facility owned or controlled by an authority, the authority may enter into contracts, leases, and other arrangements for terms not to exceed 50 years with any persons:

(a) granting the privilege of using or improving the airport or air navigation facility or any portion or facility of or space in the airport or air navigation facility for commercial purposes;

(b) conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services, or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility; and

(c) making available services to be furnished by the authority or its agents at the airport or air navigation facility.

(2) In each case, the authority may establish the terms and conditions and fix the charges, rentals, or fees for the privileges or services, which must be reasonable and uniform for the same class of privilege or service; provided that the public may not be deprived of its rightful, equal, and uniform use of the airport, air navigation facility, or portion or facility of the airport or air navigation facility.

(3) Except as may be limited by the terms and conditions of any grant, loan, or agreement authorized by 67-11-305, an authority may by contract, lease, or other arrangement, upon a consideration fixed by it, grant to any qualified person for a term not to exceed 50 years the privilege of operating, as agent of the authority or otherwise, any airport owned or controlled by the authority; provided that a person may not be granted any authority to operate an airport other than as a public airport or to enter into any contracts, leases, or other arrangements in connection with the operation of the airport which the authority might not have undertaken under subsections (1) and (2).

History: En. 1-913 by Sec. 12, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-913; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Airport police officers — employment, education, and certification standards, 7-32-303.
Airport all-beverages license, 16-4-208.
Airport all-beverages license fee, 16-4-501.
Passenger terminals — fire protection and safety regulations, Title 50, ch. 61, part 1.

67-11-212 through 67-11-220 reserved.

67-11-221. Exercise of airport authority powers by department — exceptions. The department shall have all powers of an airport authority, except powers to certify or levy taxes or issue bonds, for constructing and operating public airports or landing fields near international border ports of entry and near state or national parks or near or in recreational areas as the department may determine to be in the public interest.

History: En. 1-902 by Sec. 2, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-902.

67-11-222. Department control of airport operation and income. The department may control the operation of airports constructed under the provisions of 67-11-221 and may provide for the imposition of landing fees, granting of fuel and service concessions, or the lease of portions of the premises for other related airport services or for purposes not inconsistent with the use of the premises for airport purposes. All income from the operation of such airports shall be deposited in the state treasury in the airport operating account within the enterprise fund. All expenditures from the account shall be within the limits of legislative appropriations and shall be made upon vouchers signed and approved by the director of the department.

History: En. 1-903 by Sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 348, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-903; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

67-11-223 through 67-11-230 reserved.

67-11-231. Airport property — acquisition by eminent domain. In the acquisition of property by eminent domain proceedings authorized by this chapter, an airport authority shall proceed as provided in Title 70, chapter 30. The municipality is not precluded from abandoning the proceedings in any case in which possession of the property has not been taken.

History: En. 1-910 by Sec. 9, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-910; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Acquisition of landing fields and parking areas for aircraft, 7-14-4801.
Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.

67-11-232. Airport property — disposal. Except as may be limited by the terms and conditions of any grant, loan, or agreement authorized by 67-11-305, an authority may, by sale, lease, or otherwise, dispose of any airport, air navigation facility, or other property or portion of or interest in an airport or facility acquired pursuant to this chapter. The disposal by sale, lease, or otherwise must be in accordance with the adopted rules of the authority, which rules must be approved by the local governing body, for the disposal of county property, except that in the case of disposal to another authority, a municipality, or an agency of the state or federal government for use and operation as a public airport, the sale, lease, or other disposal may be effected in a manner and upon terms as the commissioners of the authority consider to be in the best interest of civil aviation.

History: En. 1-911 by Sec. 10, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-911; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-11-233 through 67-11-240 reserved.

67-11-241. No limitation on airport hazard zoning. Nothing contained in this chapter limits any right, power, or authority of a municipality to regulate airport hazards by zoning or by establishing airport affected area regulations as provided in Title 67, chapter 7.

History: En. 1-924 by Sec. 23, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-924; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 300, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Municipal zoning, Title 76, ch. 2, part 3.

Part 3
Finance

67-11-301. Municipal tax levy. The airport authority may certify annually to the governing bodies the amount of tax requested to be levied by each municipality participating in the creation of the airport authority, and subject to 15-10-420, the municipality shall levy the amount certified, pursuant to provisions of law authorizing cities and other political subdivisions of this state to levy taxes for airport purposes. The levy may not exceed the maximum levy that may have been established by the municipality or municipalities in the resolution creating the authority. The municipality shall collect the taxes certified by an airport authority in the same manner as other taxes are levied and collected and make payment to the airport authority. The proceeds of the taxes paid to the airport authority must be deposited in a special account or accounts in which other revenue of the authority is deposited and may be expended by the authority as provided for in this chapter. Prior to the issuance of bonds under 67-11-303, the airport authority or the municipality may by resolution covenant that the total amount of the taxes authorized by law or the portion of the taxes specified by the resolution will, subject to 15-10-420, be certified, levied, and deposited annually until the bonds and interest are fully paid.

History: En. 1-916 by Sec. 15, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 501, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 1-916; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

Cross-References
Municipal taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 44.
Limitation on property taxes, Title 15, ch. 10, part 4.

67-11-302. County tax levy. Subject to 15-10-420, in counties supporting airports or airport authorities, a levy as provided for in 67-10-402 may be made for airport authority purposes.

History: En. 1-917 by Sec. 16, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-917; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

Cross-References
County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.

67-11-303. Bonds and obligations. (1) An authority may borrow money for any of its corporate purposes and issue its bonds for those purposes, including refunding bonds, in the form and upon the terms that it may determine, payable out of any revenue of the authority, including revenue derived from:

(a) an airport or air navigation facility or facilities;
(b) taxes levied pursuant to 67-11-301 or other law for airport purposes;
(c) grants or contributions from the federal government; or
(d) other sources.

(2) The bonds may be issued by resolution of the authority, without an election and without any limitation of amount, except that bonds may not be issued at any time if the total amount of principal and interest to become due in any year on the bonds and on any then-outstanding bonds for which revenue from the same source or sources is pledged exceeds the amount of revenue to be received in that year as estimated in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds. The authority shall take all action necessary and possible to impose, maintain, and collect rates, charges, rentals, and taxes, if any is pledged, sufficient to make the revenue from the pledged source in the year at least equal to the amount of principal and interest due in that year.

(3) The bonds may be sold at public or private sale and may bear interest as provided in 17-5-102. Except as otherwise provided in this section, any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter by an authority may be payable as to principal and interest solely from revenue of the authority and must state on their face the applicable limitations or restrictions regarding the source from which the principal and interest are payable.

(4) Bonds issued by an authority or municipality pursuant to the provisions of this chapter are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose by a political subdivision.

(5) For the security of bonds, the authority or municipality may by resolution make and enter into any covenant, agreement, or indenture and may exercise any additional powers authorized to be exercised by a municipality under Title 7, chapter 7, parts 44 and 45. The sums required from time to time to pay principal and interest and to create and maintain a reserve for the bonds may be paid from any revenue referred to in this chapter, prior to the payment of current costs of operation and maintenance of the facilities.

(6) Subject to the conditions stated in this subsection, the governing body of any municipality having a population in excess of 10,000, with respect to bonds issued pursuant to this chapter by the municipality or by an authority in which the municipality is included, may by resolution covenant that in the event that at any time all revenue, including taxes, appropriated and collected for the bonds is insufficient to pay principal or interest then due, it shall, subject to 15-10-420, levy a general tax upon all of the taxable property in the municipality for the payment of the deficiency. The governing body may further covenant that at any time a deficiency is likely to occur within 1 year for the payment of principal and interest due on the bonds, it shall, subject to 15-10-420, levy a general tax upon all the taxable property in the municipality for the payment of the deficiency, and the taxes are limited to a rate estimated to be sufficient to produce the amount of the deficiency. In the event that more than one municipality having a population in excess of 10,000 is included in an authority issuing bonds pursuant to this chapter, the municipalities may apportion the obligation to levy taxes for the payment of, or in anticipation of, a deficiency in the revenue appropriated for the bonds in a manner that the municipalities may determine. The resolution must state the principal amount and purpose of the bonds and the substance of the covenant respecting deficiencies. A resolution may not be effective until the question of its approval has been submitted to the qualified electors of the municipality at a special election called for that purpose by the governing body of the municipality and a majority of the electors voting on the question have voted in favor of the resolution. The special election must be held in conjunction with a regular or primary election. The notice and conduct of the election is governed, to the extent applicable, as provided for municipal general obligation bonds in Title 7, chapter 7, part 42, for an election called by cities and towns and as provided for county general obligation bonds in Title 7, chapter 7, part 22, for an election called by counties. If a majority of the electors voting on the issue vote against approval of the resolution, the municipality may not make the covenant or levy a tax for the payment of deficiencies pursuant to this section, but the municipality or authority may issue bonds under this chapter payable solely from the sources referred to in subsection (1).

History: En. 1-912 by Sec. 11, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 501, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 232, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 1-912; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 140, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 500, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 128, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 387, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 503, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Debt management, Title 7, ch. 7.

67-11-304. Reserve fund. An airport authority may create a reserve fund for the use, repairs, maintenance, and capital outlays of an airport.

History: En. 1-906 by Sec. 6, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 1-906; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 279, L. 1993.

67-11-305. Federal and state money. (1) An authority may accept, receive, receipt for, and spend federal and state moneys and other moneys, public or private, made available by grant or loan, to accomplish any of the purposes of this chapter. All federal moneys accepted under this section shall be accepted and spent by the authority upon terms and conditions prescribed by the United States and consistent with state law. All state moneys accepted under this section shall be accepted and spent by the authority upon terms and conditions prescribed by the state.

(2) An authority may designate the department as its agent to accept, receive, receipt for, and disburse federal and state moneys and other moneys, public or private, made available by grant or loan, to accomplish in whole or in part any of the purposes of this chapter and may designate the department as its agent in contracting for and supervising the planning, acquisition, development, construction, improvement, maintenance, equipment, or operation of any airport or other air navigation facility. An authority may enter into an agreement with the department prescribing the terms and conditions of the agency in accordance with terms and conditions prescribed by the United States, if federal money is involved, and in accordance with the applicable laws of this state. All federal moneys accepted under this section by the department shall be accepted and transferred or spent by the department upon terms and conditions prescribed by the United States. All moneys received by the department under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury and, unless otherwise prescribed by

the agency from which the moneys were received, shall be kept in separate funds designated according to the purposes for which the moneys were made available and held by the state in trust for those purposes.

History: En. 1-915 by Sec. 14, Ch. 433, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 348, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 1-915.

Cross-References

Airport property — disposal, 67-11-232.

67-11-306. Tax exemption. Any property in this state acquired by an authority for airport purposes, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and any income derived by the authority from the ownership, operation, or control of the property is exempt from taxation and any other charges to the same extent as other property used for public purpose.

History: En. 1-920 by Sec. 19, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-920; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Tax-exempt property, Title 15, ch. 6, part 2.

Municipal airports — tax exemption, 67-10-406.

Part 4
Extraterritorial Airports

67-11-401. Out-of-state airport jurisdiction — reciprocity. (1) For the purpose of this section, "governmental agency" means any municipality, city, town, county, public corporation, or other public agency.

(2) The state or any governmental agency of this state having any powers with respect to planning, establishing, acquiring, developing, constructing, enlarging, improving, maintaining, equipping, operating, regulating, or protecting airports or air navigation facilities within this state may exercise those powers within any state or jurisdiction adjoining this state, subject to the laws of that state or jurisdiction.

(3) (a) A state adjoining this state or any governmental agency of an adjoining state may plan, establish, acquire, develop, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, and protect airports and air navigation facilities within this state, subject to the laws of this state applicable to airports and air navigation facilities. Subject to subsection (3)(b), the adjoining state or governmental agency has the power of eminent domain in this state, which must be exercised as provided in Title 70, chapter 30.

(b) The power of eminent domain may not be exercised unless the adjoining state authorizes the exercise of that power in the adjoining state by this state or any governmental agency of this state having any of the powers mentioned in this section.

(4) The powers granted in this section may be exercised jointly by two or more states or governmental agencies, including this state and its governmental agencies, in a combination that may be agreed upon by the states or governmental agencies.

History: En. 1-922 by Sec. 21, Ch. 433, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 1-922; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

General powers of authority — establishment of facilities within adjoining state, 67-11-201.

TITLE 68

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